



THE TIMES
Saturday

What children
really watch

Our weekly colour
magazine for readers in
their early teens asks
them what they get
from television, and
what they want

Where autumn
glory shines

Brown and gold are far
from the only colours
of autumn, as a visit to
Nuneham Court, and
other places in our
seasonal guide,
demonstrates

A muse of wit
reflects



Keith Waterhouse, a
leading wit of the
written word, talks
about scant recognition
from "literary
London", an attitude
which is mutual

LIVING

A grand burnt
offering



Forget sparklers, what
you need on November
5 is £1,000-worth of
"designer
pyrotechnics" from
Andrew Joffe (above)

Speak up, this
is a rural idyll

Nothing like a quiet
retreat? Certainly there
is nothing like it in
much of the country.
Sally Brompton braved
the noise pollution

SPORT

Grow older,
get better?



George Foreman and
others prove age is no
barrier to success, but
when do sports people
peak?

MONEY

Gambling and
investment

Twenty million Britons
have premium bonds.
We gamble away £10
billion every year.
Where does it go, and
should we have a
national lottery?

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Zeebrugge trial failure brings law reform call

By MICHAEL HORNSNELL

THE Zeebrugge disaster trial collapsed at the Central Criminal Court yesterday when manslaughter charges against P&O European Ferries and seven of its employees were dropped.

The failure to obtain a successful prosecution for corporate manslaughter after a £1 million trial led to calls last night for civil law reform, allowing uninsured awards of punitive damages against reckless companies.

The acquittals were the final chapter of the story that began on March 6, 1987 when 192 people died after the Herald of Free Enterprise capsized, having sailed with its bow doors open. The trial was only the second for corporate manslaughter.

The prosecution abruptly wound up its case, having called fewer than half its intended 138 witnesses, after conferring with the director of public prosecutions — who was in court yesterday — over a warning from the judge in the absence of the jury that it was unable to prove its case.

Mr Justice Turner then ordered the jury to find the ferry company, chief marine superintendent Jeffrey Devlin, his deputy John Alcindor, technical director Wallace Ayres, senior master John Kirby, and master of the Herald David Lewry not guilty of unlawfully killing Alison Gaillard.

Months later, David Lewry, 42, for the prosecution, said it would not be in the public interest to proceed against Mark Stanley, the assistant boatswain who should have closed the bow doors, and Leslie Sabel, the chief officer who was responsible for ensuring that the task had been carried out.

Afterwards, Maurice de Rohan, chairman of the Herald Families Association and Ms Gaillard's father, said he was "gravely disappointed and singularly unimpressed" by the Crown's presentation of the case. But he added that corporate manslaughter had been vindicated as a "valid charge" in criminal law.

The charges had alleged that there was an obvious and serious risk that as the result of the defendants' failure to do their duties properly the Herald would sail with open doors, capsize and cause death. But the judge said there was no direct evidence that any of the five senior defendants would have perceived the risk was obvious.

A judicial enquiry into the disaster in 1987 blamed executives of Townsend Thoresen, now P&O European Ferries (Dover) Ltd, for the under-

lying causes of the tragedy, but said the operators had committed no statutory offence. Mr Justice Sheen said the management was infected with the disease of sloppiness, had ignored calls for the fitting of bridge warning lights and must have been aware there was a real risk of ferries setting sail with bow doors open.

The enquiry found Mr Lewry personally responsible for the disaster, saying he was guilty of serious negligence. He and his chief officer were stripped of their certificates, but Mr Justice Sheen said: "A full investigation leads inexorably to the conclusion that the cardinal faults lay higher up the company."

Captain Lewry declined comment yesterday, but his lawyer, Sara Robinson, read out a statement saying he welcomed the decision that there was no case for him to answer personally. "The evidence in the trial has made it absolutely plain that Captain Lewry was a skilled and conscientious captain with a particular concern for safety. Captain Lewry relied upon the same systems for ensuring that the doors were closed that had proved safe and reliable on some 60,000 previous crossings and which to his knowledge had never failed. Nothing he did on that night warranted his prosecution."

Roger Mann, the ferry company's legal director, said: "While the company accepted responsibility for the passengers and their dependants, the decision confirms our view that there never was a case of corporate manslaughter." But John Prescott, Labour transport spokesman, said: "It seems that the British courts have confirmed that companies are not responsible for their actions in regard to the safety of their operations."

A Labour government would legislate to ensure that they did have a corporate responsibility. Roger Pannone, the solicitor whose Manchester firm co-ordinated lawyers representing the Zeebrugge victims, recently put law reform proposals to the transport secretary. He said last night that corporations found guilty of wanton recklessness or gross negligence should face uninsured penalties of millions of pounds.

The coroner at the Zeebrugge inquest ruled that a company could not be guilty of manslaughter. The jury nevertheless returned a verdict of unlawful killing. The Divisional Court said later that it was "tentatively" prepared to accept that a corporate body could be found guilty of manslaughter.

Trial collapse, page 2



Ashdown's triumph: congratulations from the Liberal Democrat leader for David Bellotti, by-election victor

Future set for Soviet economy

From MARY DEJEVSKY
IN MOSCOW

THE Soviet parliament yesterday approved guidelines at last for the transition from central planning to market principles within two years. Senior Soviet economists gave warning, however, that at least a generation would pass before the Soviet Union had a full market economy.

The plan, finalised by President Gorbachev earlier this week, stipulates a period of extreme austerity to cut the internal budget deficit, coupled with the gradual freeing of retail prices.

President Gorbachev criticised the Soviet government and the government of the Russian Federation for fueling inflation by raising wholesale prices before the plan had been approved. He rebuked the Russian President, Boris Yeltsin, accusing him of placing political ambition before the good of the country in demanding a role for radicals in a central coalition. "He got carried away trying to mount a show of strength and forgot that there are another 14 republics in the Soviet Union," he said.

Key question, page 8

Tory poll fear grows after Eastbourne shock

By PHILIP WEBSTER, CHIEF POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

A GRIM Conservative inquest into the by-election defeat at Eastbourne began last night with a promise from the government that it recognised and would respond to the misgivings and worries of voters.

The Liberal Democrat victory at Eastbourne, one of Margaret Thatcher's least expected but most painful setbacks since she came to power in 1979, was dismissed publicly by senior figures in both main parties as a protest vote.

But in the wake of Paddy Ashdown's first by-election triumph as leader Tory chiefs were privately preparing to study the implications of a result which revived fears among some Conservative MPs about the party's ability to win the next general election.

Kenneth Baker, the Conservative chairman, will lead an enquiry into Richard Hickmet's campaign at Eastbourne, which was criticised yesterday for focusing too strongly on the circumstances which brought about the by-election, the IRA murder of Ian Gow.

Among senior MPs and party professionals there was agreement that, whatever the faults of the campaign, unpopular government policies were the main factor in David Bellotti's spectacular success in overturning a Conservative majority of nearly 17,000. A wider analysis will clearly look at the implications of the result for the government's longer-term prospects and general election timing.

Sir Geoffrey Howe, the deputy prime minister, said last night that the result was a severe disappointment. Conservatives knew the electorate was unhappy about high interest rates and inflation, and the slowdown in growth. "Of course we hear the message of the Eastbourne by-election. Of course, we recognise and understand people's misgiv-

ings," he said in Swindon, Wiltshire. "The electorate of Eastbourne have made clear their worries and their concerns. The Conservative party is alert to them. Their decision to withdraw their support in Eastbourne is not something that we shall take lightly or simply ignore."

The Conservative hierarchy was still shaken yesterday by the outcome. Although there had been some signs that Mr Hickmet's campaign had not been going as well as expected, particularly his relations with the media, there had been no warning bells in Smith Square about a possible defeat.

Mr Baker telephoned Margaret Thatcher early yesterday to discuss the loss of a seat held for 16 years by her close friend and ally. She was reported to have been disappointed and sad. Only a week ago she derided the Liberal Democrats as a "dead parrot".

Mr Baker said yesterday: "This is a protest vote against the very tough policies which the government has been correctly following in order to bring down inflation. We have got to bring inflation down and we have been going through a period of unpopularity while pursuing that

policy." Michael Latham, a senior backbencher, said: "This is yet another in the grim series of warnings which the electorate have given to the government over the last 12 months." He added that there was still deep opposition across the country to the community charge and nothing like enough had been done to ease the burden.

There were some recriminations over Mr Hickmet's campaign. Norman Miscampbell, Conservative MP for Blackpool North, said: "I cannot believe that running a campaign largely based on asking people to vote out of sentimentality."

Continued on page 26, col 1

Eastbourne aftermath, page 4
David Butler and
Diary, page 12
Leading article, page 13

Hain sees end of sports ban

By ROBIN YOUNG

PETER Hain, the anti-apartheid campaigner who disrupted Springbok rugby and stopped South African cricket tours 20 years ago, says the time may have come to end South Africa's sport isolation.

Mr Hain, prospective Labour candidate for Neath, says links could be resumed if British sports authorities get anti-apartheid groups' assent.

Hain's view, page 12

UN calls off mission to Israel

From JAMES BONE IN NEW YORK

JAVIER Pérez de Cuéllar, the United Nations secretary-general, has decided not to send a mission of enquiry to Jerusalem to investigate the Temple Mount killings, diplomatic sources said yesterday.

The decision followed Israel's announcement that it would not co-operate with the UN investigation.

Britain was preparing to deliver a statement in its capacity as this month's security council president, regret-

ting Israel's decision and urging it to reconsider.

Israel refused to receive the UN team because it regards all of Jerusalem as its sovereign territory. But Britain, the United States and the Soviet Union all urged Señor Pérez de Cuéllar to dispatch the mission, even if it could not meet Israeli authorities.

Israel is conducting its own enquiry and is expected to present the secretary-general with its findings next week.

But that is unlikely to appease Arab and non-aligned states at the UN, who feel that they had made concessions to enable passage of a security council resolution on the occupied territories last week, and have now been snubbed by Israel.

Further council action on the territories could delay passage of the next resolution against Iraq.

Bush pledge, page 9
Sanctions bite, page 26

The lucklessness of the long-distance runner

By ROB HOWARD

A MISS is as good as a mile, or in the case of ultra distance runner, James Zarei, a mile and a half. After six days and nights pounding hotfoot, at least for most of the time, around the Gateshead Stadium track, Iranian-born Mr Zarei failed yesterday to break the longest-standing (or should that be running?) record of them all.

The victor's laurels stay with the late George Littlewood, who in 1888 covered 623.75 miles over the same period at the Madison Square Gardens.

Mr Zarei, no spring chicken at 46, stopped just a mile and a half short of that distance. But he could claim a malign configuration of circumstances ganged up on him at Gateshead. Mr Zarei was forced to hang up his spikes for three hours to allow Glasgow Rangers to take over the park for a

hastily arranged charity game against a local side. Mr Zarei spent the time cat-napping.

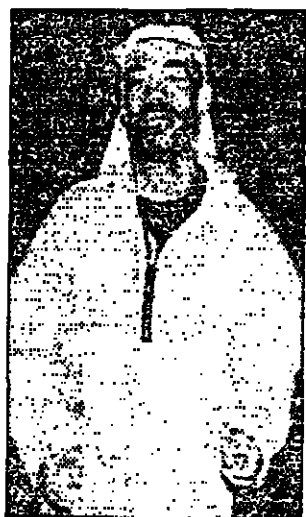
Despite missing the record, Zarei pronounced himself well satisfied with the performance which had pitted him against 13 others capable of both running and staying awake for much longer than would seem sensible. "I have never run a six-day race before so I did not expect anything special," he said sleepily. "And with better conditions and equipment I could probably run further."

But perhaps Mr Zarei does not realise how lucky he was at Gateshead Stadium. A century ago, when George Littlewood was showing everyone a clean pair of heels, such events were accompanied by skulduggery on the grand scale.

Sabotage was commonplace. With large sums riding on the successful contestant in what had become the 19th

century equivalent of the Roman Circus, the dirtiest of tricks were employed. One favourite for the six-day event had his drinking water spiked with vinegar at a crucial point in the proceedings. Another's liniment footbath was set alight as he stood in the water resting his aching feet.

Runners in the heyday of such events were forced to enhance their performance with the use of noxious stimulants, the least harmful of these preparations being beer. One hundred years on at Gateshead there were perhaps echoes of such excess when one contestant, Tom Grace of the United States, was seen on the track clutching a bottle of Newcastle Brown Ale. Grace had sensibly wanted to retire from this most-punishing of marathons but had been talked out of such weakness by the race organiser, Maurice Patterson, in the track bar.



James Zarei: just a mile-and-a-half short of record

Entry to ERM was forced by Thatcher rate call

By DAVID BREWERTON

BRITAIN'S decision to enter the European exchange-rate mechanism two weeks ago was dictated entirely by the prime minister's emphatic demand that John Major, the Chancellor, cut interest rates immediately before the Conservative party conference, according to City sources.

Senior City bankers say that Mrs Thatcher was so determined to demonstrate her faith that the British economy was coming right that she ordered the 1 per cent cut in the minimum lending rate to take place on the Friday before the conference.

Mr Major and the governor of the Bank of England were consequently forced to decide whether or not a politically unavoidable interest rate cut should be accompanied by simultaneous entry into the ERM. This they had long wanted, but Mrs Thatcher had resisted. They told the prime minister that less damage would be inflicted on the currency by entry than by remaining outside. She had to agree.

Mr Major said at the Mansion House on Thursday night that he had decided to announce the two moves at the same time to avoid any misunderstandings.

"I was influenced by the risk that a reduction in interest rates before entry into the ERM would have been misunderstood as a signal that I was seeking to weaken the exchange rate in readiness for joining, which I was not; or alternatively, that entry was a long way off, which it was not."

"Both interpretations might have weakened the exchange rate and damaged the prospect of entering at a central rate which would make our counter-inflationary intentions clear from the start."

Cash union, page 26
Norwegian link, page 34

Jaguar's deal hits pay hopes

By KEVIN EASON
MOTORING CORRESPONDENT

JAGUAR last night gave in to union demands for inflation-beating pay rises in a deal which will dent government hopes of wage restraint. Union leaders are recommending acceptance of a package that will give 9,000 workers a 12.5 per cent increase from November 1 and 7 per cent, or the rate of inflation, in a year. Jaguar is given the go-ahead to reform working practices.

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BOUCHERON
PLAQUE IN ORO
18 K

Court gives disabled baby right to die

By JILL SHERMAN, SOCIAL SERVICES CORRESPONDENT

A DISABLED baby aged five months was given the right to die by the Court of Appeal yesterday.

However, Lord Donaldson of Lynton, Master of the Rolls, said the judges were not condemning the baby to death. Neither the courts nor the parents had the right to impose death.

Doctors have been sufficiently concerned about the baby's suffering to seek the court's guidance about whether to keep the baby alive by machine if he stopped breathing.

Baby "J" weighed 2½ lb when he was born prematurely in May. He was not breathing and had to be placed on a ventilator. Severely brain damaged, he is now paralysed, appears to be blind and likely

to become deaf, doctors say. It is debatable whether he will ever be able to sit up or hold his head up and he is unlikely to live into his twenties.

Although he has collapsed a number of times and had to rely on a ventilator he has been breathing independently since September 23. On October 11, Mr Justice Scott Baker ruled at the High Court in Lincoln that he should only be treated within guidelines set out by a doctor who said it would not be in the baby's interests to be put back on the ventilator if he stopped breathing.

Although the parents agreed with the doctor, David Venables, the official solicitor, appealed as the boy's guardian. Mr Venables claimed that a court was never justified in withholding consent to treatment which would enable a child to survive whatever the quality of life.

Lord Donaldson said the judges had to decide whether doctors had a right to choose a course of action which would fail to avert death. The use of drugs to reduce pain would often be frequently justified, even if this would advance the time of death. "What can never be justified is the use of drugs, or surgical procedures with the primary purpose of doing so."

The doctors in J's case were unanimous in recommending that the boy should not be put back on a ventilator. It could cause even greater brain damage and might not improve his chances of living.

In refusing the appeal, Lord Justice Taylor said the plight of baby J was appalling and the court was facing a difficult problem, but the paramount consideration was what was in the child's best interests.

Last night Jack Scarisbrick, national chairman of the pressure group Life, attacked the Court of Appeal's decision. "What the judges have ruled is disgraceful. They are openly encouraging murder. The diagnosis of the child's future, on which the judges have based their decision is wholly unreliable. Nobody can predict the amount of damage to the child's hearing and sight. Give us this child and we will look after him."



Here, ye are again Brian McCusker, York's new town crier, in full voice yesterday after the city officially revived the post after a gap of 118 years. Mr McCusker, a part-time mathematics tutor, beat four other finalists in a "shoot off" and admitted after his victory that he had received four hours' tuition from a former town crier of Whitby. In return for his £3,700 salary Mr McCusker will have to shout news headlines for two-and-a-half hours a day, six days a week, in the city's squares.

£1,000-a-day chief to save Dan Air

By HARVEY ELLIOTT, AIR CORRESPONDENT

THE future of Dan Air last night seemed assured, at least until the end of next year after the appointment of David James, a City troubleshooter, as chairman and a £30 million cash injection from banks.

The deal which, it is hoped, will save the struggling airline, was signed early yesterday and is certain to trigger significant changes in the structure and commercial activities of both Dan Air and its parent company, Davies and Newman. Fred Newman, who has been chairman since 1966, watched sadly as Mr James outlined

how he had struck a complex and "unprecedented" deal with the banks which effectively freezes out Mr Newman and the rest of his family from any say in the future of the company.

For his efforts, Mr James will be paid more than £1,000 a day, a figure which he mockingly described as modest. "I don't know why I don't get registered as a charity," the man who has built up a reputation as the saviour of endangered companies, said.

Dan Air's £40 million overdraft and loan facilities were due to expire at the end of the month and Mr James said, it could have collapsed today had the deal not been signed. "The fuse was getting very close to the powder keg."

Now the original £40 million is being "rolled over" and a further £30 million added to enable Mr James and a new team he plans to appoint within the next few weeks, the chance to restructure the airline completely.

He emphasised yesterday that he had not yet made any firm decision about the future shape of Dan Air but would be bringing in senior figures from the world of aviation to help him decide whether to "hold, associate or divest". Most of the 4,200 employees would, he hoped, be kept on.

Harry Goodman's International Leisure Group, whose withdrawal from contracts for Dan Air to fly holiday-makers and to maintain its aircraft helped to increase pressure on the airline, said last night that it would be happy to re-enter discussions about trading again with Dan Air.

In spite of the cash injection, Dan Air faces a huge task in reorganising its diverse and fuel hungry fleet of aircraft. The company is making substantial losses and is certain to get rid of more aircraft and to concentrate on its rapidly expanding and popular scheduled route structure, perhaps using the same aircraft to fly charters at night and at weekends.

Bankers' windfall, page 34

Birth control for the new man

By KERRY GILL

JAMES Bremner was installing telephones at Edinburgh's Royal Infirmary when he saw a notice asking for volunteers for an experiment on a male contraceptive. Five years later he is one of 271 men from seven countries who have helped to show that the method is better than the pill used by women and a substantial improvement on condoms for avoiding pregnancy.

Yesterday, Mr Bremner, aged 42, and two other Edinburgh men who took part in the study conducted by the World Health Organisation, agreed that it was just as much the responsibility of men to prevent a pregnancy as their partners.

Side-effects from the weekly injections of the hormone testosterone were so slight as

to be negligible, they said. Some men experienced an increased libido, while others reported acne and small increases in weight, although none of the men said it had been a great problem. As many as 157 of the men stopped producing sperm altogether but, within about four months of the treatment ending, fertility was regained. Some of the men had subsequently become fathers.

John Munro, aged 37, a printer, began the trial in September 1988 and said he suffered no noticeable weight increase, just some acne on his back. "I don't like using condoms, whereas I feel that this method is really handy. Injections don't bother me at all," he said.

Ross Hunter, aged 32, a sur-

vivor, said that it had always been assumed that it was up to the woman to take a contraceptive pill. The success of the male injection had turned the argument on its head.

Professor Dennis Lincoln, director of the Medical Research Council reproductive biology unit in Edinburgh, said it was on the verge of developing an injection that had to be taken only every three months or over even longer intervals. He said a male pill was still some time away, but he was confident that one could be introduced before very long.

"I firmly believe that we are now approaching a time when men and women will be able to choose who takes responsibility for contraception on equal terms," he added.

'Vetting' of Ulster athletes angers MP

By DAVID POWELL, ATHLETICS CORRESPONDENT

PETER Brooke, the Northern Ireland secretary, has been challenged to explain why police requested details of 12 athletes intending to compete for the province in a cross country race in England.

Cecil Walker, MP for Belfast North, yesterday said it was deplorable and demanded assurances that it would not become common practice. He was supported by Northern Ireland athletes officials.

Police in Amphil, Bedfordshire, wrote to the organisers of a veterans international match to be staged there on November 4, seeking information which, they said, would help prevent concern among residents at the sudden presence of Irish accents and number plates. "By knowing which hotels they were staying at and which vehicles they were likely to use, undue alarm could be averted if a report was received from a member of the public," a Bedfordshire police spokesman said.

Mr Walker said that the Northern Ireland athletes had been treated deplorably and Les Jones, British Olympic team manager and chairman of the Northern Ireland Amateur Athletic Federation said: "Are all Irish teams travelling to England going to be scrutinised? Does this mean that the next time Billy Bingham takes his Irish soccer team to play at Wembley they will be asked for details of their players?"

Mr Walker said: "I would like a written response on the government view. I want to be sure there is no repetition of such deplorable treatment of Northern Ireland athletes competing in their own country."

Raiders have their jail term increased

SEVEN men convicted of raids on small shops had their sentences increased by the Court of Appeal yesterday. Two of the men, due to be freed next week after being given nine months for robbing a pizza parlour manager, had their terms increased to four years. A man aged 20 who robbed an off-licence proprietor and went on to threaten police with a gun, had an 18-month youth custody term increased to seven years.

Two men who plotted to rob an antique dealer had three-year sentences doubled and two others who attacked a furniture shop owner had their respective 18-month and two-year terms increased to three-and-a-half and four-and-a-half years.

The Lord Chief Justice Lord Lane, sitting with Lord Justice Mann, said the original sentences were "unduly lenient". Under recent legislation contained in the 1988 Criminal Justice Act the appeal court had to interfere. Applications to increase the sentences were made by Graham Boal and Julian Bevan, representing the Attorney General, Sir Patrick Mayhew.

Lord Lane said offenders who attacked small shops and premises that could not provide complete security should suffer severe punishment.

The men, who now face greatly increased prison terms are Robert Dickson, aged 25, and Alphonse Mendy, 26, convicted on April 27 of conspiracy to rob an antique shop at Bushey, Hertfordshire, and possession of an imitation firearm. Lord Lane said the three-year sentences imposed by the Recorder, Judge Gray, were unduly lenient. He substituted six years.

Edward Singleton and Barry Hodgkins, both aged 25. They will now each serve four years instead of nine months for attacking the trainee manager of the Perfect Pizza store in Hove, Sussex, and robbing

him of more than £2,000. The victim believed he had been threatened with a knife during the attack - but that could not be substantiated, it was said at the Lewes Crown Court trial.

In the case of James Ryan and Martin Walsh, both 25, jailed for two years and 18 months respectively when they were sentenced by Judge Edmondson at Preston Crown Court on June 25 for robbing a 68-year-old furniture shop manager at Chorley, Lancs, Lord Lane said Ryan would have his sentence increased to four-and-a-half years, but Walsh, who had been frank from the outset, would serve a year less.

On Warren Edward Duffy, aged 20, sentenced to 18 months youth custody at Warwick Crown Court on July 31 for robbery and use of a firearm with intent to resist arrest, Lord Lane said a sentence of 10 years could have been justified for these very serious offences. Duffy had threatened an off-licence proprietor and his family and had gone on to fire a semi-automatic pistol when police moved in to arrest him. Later the weapon was found to be capable of firing blanks only. His original sentence could not stand, but a sentence of seven, rather than ten, years would be substituted.

The appeal judges rejected the Attorney General's plea to increase jail terms on George McLoughlin, aged 25, and Vincent Clarke, aged 26, had been jailed for three and five years respectively by Judge Arthur at Liverpool crown court on August 7 for attempted burglary and aggravated burglary.

Lord Lane said the sentences were not unduly lenient. The pair had not known that an elderly woman would be on the premises. Clarke had threatened to cut off the victim's fingers unless she removed her rings.

THE SUNDAY TIMES

Dark days for the old man of Havana

To government spokesmen Cuba is a beacon shining in a dark sea. But comandante Castro - the Prospero-like ruler of a lost Atlantis - has begun to sound like a desperado. "Capitalism," he declares, "will never return to Cuba as long as there remains one revolutionary, one patriot."

"Resist! Resist! Resist!" he shouts. While in the corridors of the central committee headquarters in Havana, they have already switched off the lighting.

In The Sunday Times tomorrow David Selbourne describes life under Castro.

Booker's Byatt

"We had a knees-up around the piano," Valerie Grove interviews A S Byatt winner of this year's Booker prize with her novel Possession

The Fifth Man?

Should the Fifth Man be remembered? The Sunday Times profiles John Cairncross, exposed by the KGB's Oleg Gordievsky

House Style

The getaway homes of three fast-lane achievers are featured in the autumn edition of House Style - a 56-page extra magazine free with The Sunday Times.

ПОЧТИ ДАРОМ

(Russian for - almost for nothing)

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EASTBOURNE BY-ELECTION AFTERMATH

Success for clean fight as the 'Gow factor' fails

By SHEILA GUNN

THE handwritten note from Jane Gow, widow of Ian Gow, the murdered MP, sent to the electors of Eastbourne stated: "It would be Ian's wish to see his work continued by Richard Hickmet, whose abilities and qualities he knew."

Under the headline "Friend and Colleague of Ian Gow", a Tory leaflet distributed around the seaside town went further. It read: "Any result, other than a massive vote for Richard Hickmet, will be a moral victory for terrorism."

The tactics adopted by the local Tories to exploit the "Gow factor" badly backfired. The irony is that, as many local voters were aware, Ian Gow knew David Bellotti, the Liberal Democrat councillor who is his successor as MP for Eastbourne, rather better than he knew Mr Hickmet, a former MP.

This is one reason why Mr Bellotti will attend Monday's Westminster memorial service for Mr Gow, accompanied by Paddy Ashdown, the Liberal Democrat leader, before taking his seat in the Commons the following day.

There are deeper similarities between Ian Gow and Mr Bellotti. The new MP has the same no-nonsense attitude and an obvious integrity and tends to speak only when he has something to say. It is Mr Hickmet who appeared to the people of Eastbourne to be the outsider.

As the blue posters came down within hours of the Tories' defeat, Christopher Paul, the Tory agent, confirmed yesterday that the decision to play the sympathy vote so strongly was taken locally and not imposed by Conservative central office. "I do not think it backfired," he said.

"I do not think the tactics we used through the whole of our campaign backfired in any way. We just found ourselves in a typical by-election situation with a low turn-out, a number of Conservatives who thought it was a safe seat, and a slight protest vote on all sorts of government policies."

Paul Jacobs, Mr Bellotti's agent, appeared unsurprised yesterday at the success of his "clean" campaign strategy. He did not seek to exploit, for instance, local opposition among Greek Cypriots to his opponent's Turkish antecedents, although he played up Mr Bellotti's strong local credentials, describing Mr Hickmet by comparison as "former MP for Scunthorpe".

Mr Jacobs, aged 29, and a veteran of Brecon and Radnor, Ryedale, and Richmond by-election campaigns, rang Mr Ashdown on Monday and reported the Liberal Democrats to be trailing the Tories by only four per cent with "movement in our direction" after a final weekend of door-to-door canvassing by 800 party workers. Still reluctant to believe he could win, he ordered a re-canvassing of undecided voters.

After a considerable debate between party leaders about fielding a candidate at all, Mr Jacobs started the Liberal Democrats campaign last month determined to build on the party's strong local base. "We were surprised by the tactics the Conservatives adopted. There was a series of tactical blunders on the part of their managers," he said.

"We had developed a strategy document, agreed by local constituency and central party organisations. We were determined not to be deflected off



Subdued: Richard Hickmet, the Tory candidate, yesterday contemplating his defeat

our core strategy on campaigning on local issues."

The sympathy card was the only card the Conservative campaigners played, Mr Jacobs added. "They did not offer anything else to people concerned about the poll tax, high interest rates and health and education services."

The Liberals controlled Eastbourne borough council between 1973 and 1988. The present make-up is 15 Conservative councillors, 13 Liberal Democrats, one Independent Tory, and one Labour.

At the victory rally yesterday, councillor Leslie Mason, the town's former Liberal mayor, said the sort of issues worrying local voters were the effect of high interest rates and the uniform business rate on small businesses, the introduction of charges in hospital car parks and the sight of eight empty hotels along the sea front. All, he said, added to local disillusion with the government.

Fragile euphoria, page 12
Leading article, page 13

Sweet victory after years on the fringe

By PETER MULLIGAN

DAVID Bellotti, the Eastbourne victor, savoured his first day as an MP yesterday after years of campaigning on the fringe of national politics.

There have been no short cuts for this mild, bespectacled figure and his experience and character were immediately apparent to television viewers when, seconds after the result was announced, he appeared fluent and cool before an interviewer's questioning.

There was no crowing — though many others might have given way to temptation after overturning a 17,000 Tory majority against all expectations. In coping with success in public after a poll caused by the murder of the sitting MP, Mr Bellotti flew through his first test in office.

Recalling the death of Ian Gow, his predecessor, he said quietly yesterday: "I do not think this is a moment for being triumphant."

Party aides described him as a serious and intense man with flashes of humour. Mr Bellotti had not prepared a victory speech and said that afterwards, because of his excitement, he could not remember what he had said.

He started comparatively late in politics at the age of 31. It was his second attempt at Eastbourne. In the first, at the start of the Thatcher years, he lost by some 26,000 votes. Since then he has stood twice, unsuccessfully, at nearby Lewes where he lives.

Mr Bellotti, aged 47, is a director with a YMCA, responsible for developing community initiatives throughout Sussex. He has led a strong Liberal Democrat group on the local council.

He has also been studying part-time for an MA in education policy and plans to complete the degree. His other main interest is football. A qualified FA coach, he combined a holiday to Italy this year with a visit to three World Cup matches.

He hopes to become a member of the "92 Club" by visiting every league ground in the country. He is separated from his wife and has a son aged 10.

Mr Bellotti said that he had not expected to finish with a 4,500 majority but believed that he could hold the seat at the general election.

Safe seat exposed by 1981 result

By RICHARD FORD

POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

AS LONG ago as 1981, Eastbourne was pinpointed by Conservative Central Office as a seat that was vulnerable to a centre party assault. In the post-mortem after Shirley Williams's by-election victory at Crosby, on Merseyside, the constituency was on a list of several safe Tory seats that were considered ripe for the kind of political upset delivered by voters in the early hours of yesterday.

In spite of Ian Gow's huge general election majorities, little in the ensuing nine years lessened that vulnerability. The Liberals and then the Liberal Democrats steadily built a strong base on the local council and doubts about the vigour of the local Conservative association were reinforced by its failure in a number of years to meet the annual financial quota payable to central office.

The inquest after Crosby also alerted party headquarters to the urgent need for a by-election team, ready to move into a constituency and create a structure able to organise a campaign. The party has had some success with this strategy, but the jealousy guarded independence of local Tory associations continues to cause friction.

Steve Norris, who held the safe Conservative seat of Epping Forest with a greatly reduced majority after a by-election in 1988, said: "In these safe seats there is really no campaigning organisation. In Eastbourne I was canvassing in streets which had not seen a Conservative candidate for time immemorial. They had had help from Ian Gow but the local organisation is not geared for by-elections."

"In safe seats they set up the committee rooms during the general election and that is all they have to do. In a by-election you have to be out on the streets, hammering on the doors". Other Conservatives suggest that the malaise has reached central office; it is criticised as an impenetrable bureaucracy, unable to react quickly to the ebb and flow of political events.

Party officials look enviously at the control the Labour headquarters has over the choice of by-election candidates, but they say it would be difficult to implement a similar system because of the independence of local associations. The idea that a central list of the top 50 candidates should be supplied to local associations in constituencies facing a by-election prompts similar objections.

Conservative MPs have often longed for a person with the abilities of Peter Mandelson, Labour's recently departed public relations guru, to polish the party's image. Bernard Ingham is in charge of presenting the government's information policy and critics say the party needs a Bernard Ingham at central office. A drop in corporate donations means, however, that more ambitious plans for campaigning and modernising the party machine have had to be limited.

Jibe by Thatcher allowed to stand

THE prime minister will not be required to withdraw her "crypto-communist" jibe against Neil Kinnock, it was made clear in the Commons yesterday. Bernard Weatherill, the Speaker, told MPs that the phrase had been used in 1948 when it was ruled not to be out of order.

On Thursday, Mrs Thatcher called the Opposition leader a crypto-communist during heated exchanges about education vouchers. Mr Kinnock just laughed.

In the Commons yesterday, Stanley Orme, chairman of the parliamentary Labour party, asked the Speaker if the prime minister had withdrawn the remarks.

Mr Weatherill said that he had not heard from Mrs Thatcher, but that he had found that on May 5, 1948, an MP had called another a crypto-communist and the Speaker at the time, Clifford Brown, ruled that it was not out of order.

Dennis Skinner, Labour MP for Bolsover, said that there were different rules for different MPs. He had been thrown out of the House for calling Dr David Owen a "pompous sod".

"What is your reaction if I call the prime minister a crypto-fascist?" he asked, but the Speaker declined to be drawn.

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Non-payers least poll tax problem, councils say

As thousands prepare for another protest march Ray Clancy and William Cash look at how local authorities coped with the poll tax

A nti-poll tax organisations aim to have 10,000 protesters on the streets of London today to challenge the government's claim that the mass non-payment campaign is failing. But enquiries by *The Times* support the Department of the Environment's claim that 85 per cent of chargepayers have made at least one contribution, leaving around six million who have paid nothing.

Council treasurers are reasonably satisfied with the amount of tax collected so far, and are now more concerned with identifying possible spending cuts to avoid capping, and solving administrative headaches caused by computer software.

Proposals for possible cuts will affect some of the most vulnerable, such as the elderly, disabled and the young, although the government believes councils could be more efficient and trim spending without harming services. The environment department pointed out that local authorities in England budgeted to raise 15 per cent more revenue this year than last.

"The government has acted to protect chargepayers by capping councils. These councils claim that they have to close old peoples homes, shut libraries and cut grants to voluntary bodies." However, the government believes they can and should use capping as an opportunity to become more efficient, a department spokesman said last night.

However, the Labour party is not convinced councils can make any further savings without seriously harming services. "Despite bland assurances from the government it is now clear that the poll tax is proving a nightmare to administer. The difficulties are likely to increase and it is the tax itself that is to blame, not local councils who are desperately striving to minimise the chaos," said David Blunkett, the shadow minister for local government.

According to Steve Nally, secretary of the All Britain Poll Tax Federation, the effects of capping have merely made people more determined not to pay. "The reality can be seen in every area of the country. Millions of people are not paying and the poll tax is still a major

issue, especially for those who cannot afford to pay," he said.

The message from demonstrators on the march from Kennington to Brockwell Park is that "London is still not paying".

Some councils are considering cutting grants worth millions of pounds to voluntary groups to save money. The London Voluntary Service Council said £15 million could be lost to groups in the capital.

"It is a bitter irony that councils are making cuts at the same time as the government is looking to voluntary groups to take on extra services such as care in the community," said Dee

Springer, director of the LVSC.

A report to be published by the Audit Commission next month indicates that problems with poll tax computer software have been greater and wider ranging than expected. It says 70 per cent of local authorities could not issue their bills on time because they did not receive the necessary software, and up to 30 working days have been lost because of delays.

The London borough of Lambeth has been unable to update its community charge register because its software is not working. "Trying to keep tabs on everyone is a huge task. In Lambeth 30 per cent have moved. A tax on property is much easier to collect than a tax on people," a council spokesman said. He added that because of computer difficulties some people had still not received their first bill.

In an attempt to penalise those who have not paid, the borough of Hammersmith and Fulham, where over half those liable have yet to make a payment, considered setting up a computer programme to link non-payment with individual withdrawal of services.

At one point it was suggested the refuse collection could be stopped or library clubs suspended, but the scheme was rejected. "This would have been very expensive and bureaucratic," a council spokesman said.

Like many authorities, Liverpool city council has had to introduce computer systems within a tight legislative timetable, and had to retrain all staff to work with new software. This was hampered by staff taking industrial action over pay.

The computer software at Manchester arrived in different bits on different dates making it very difficult to link poll tax collection with rebates, throwing the whole system into confusion. "We have experienced large difficulties that have delayed the whole collection of the community charge," said Terry Anderson, the unit manager in charge of poll tax collection.

But not all the computer problems have been insurmountable. Islington had difficulties when bills were sent out in April and May. The software was unable to cope with linking housing benefits with the poll tax.

The Audit Commission report suggests that the government timetable for switching over from rates to poll tax could have been more flexible.

Millions of women are worse off paying the community charge than the old rates, because many who cannot afford to pay the poll tax don't qualify for rebates.

Next year the government should ease the immediate burden on women by looking more closely at their special needs, according to a report by the Low Pay Unit which claims that 15 million women have experienced particular hardship because of low wages and working part-time. An average annual poll tax bill of £363 is 10 per cent of the average gross annual income of a woman working part-time. Women under 21 are disadvantaged because they have no legal claim to a minimum wage, yet have to pay the full tax. Student nurses are also affected. Although technically entitled to an 80 per cent rebate, the report indicates that only 1,500 out of 58,000 are benefiting.

Nally: message from protest

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COMMONS

German unity cost to UK 'minimal'

By ROBERT MORGAN AND JOHN WINDER, PARLIAMENTARY STAFF

THE government yesterday sought to assure MPs that the cost to Britain of integration of a united Germany into the European Community will be minimal. Tristram Garel-Jones, a Foreign Office minister, said in the Commons that the cost this year would be nil and next year only £32 million.

His assurance failed to satisfy Dennis Skinner, Labour MP for Bolsover and a long-time opponent of British membership of the EC. He called the minister a Euro-fascist. He said that Germany had a £36 billion trade surplus while Britain was up to its neck in debt. Now it was proposed that British taxpayers' money should be used so that Germany could be even more powerful than it already was.

Mr Skinner said that every British family was already paying to prop up the common agricultural policy. Now they were being asked to pay out even more "to make the German regime even more powerful". East German industries such as shipbuilding were to be subsidised while yards in Britain were being closed.

Mr Garel-Jones said that the Federal Republic would shoulder the bulk of the cost of integrating the former German Democratic Republic. The EC Commission estimated that the net cost to the community next year would be £350 million, peaking at £700 million in 1992.

The British government, however, put the figure at £835 million in 1992. The British contribution is expected to be £59 million in 1992.

Mr Garel-Jones emphasised that a

united Germany offered a challenge. The EC now had a further 16 million consumers. "It is vital that we do not leave these new investment opportunities to others."

George Robertson, Labour's spokesman on Europe, said that the prime minister's inactivity and "hooligan diplomacy" towards the unification of Germany had made Britain a laughing stock and then a sadly ignored passenger in Europe.

The foreign office believes that 304 British nationals are held by the Iraqis at special sites in Iraq, and 72 in Kuwait.

William Waldegrave, foreign office minister, told the Commons yesterday that those held were included in estimates of 800 Britons remaining in Iraq and 650 in Kuwait.

Any result, other than a massive vote for Richard Hickmet will be a moral victory for terrorism.

Part of the Tory leaflet aimed at the sympathy vote

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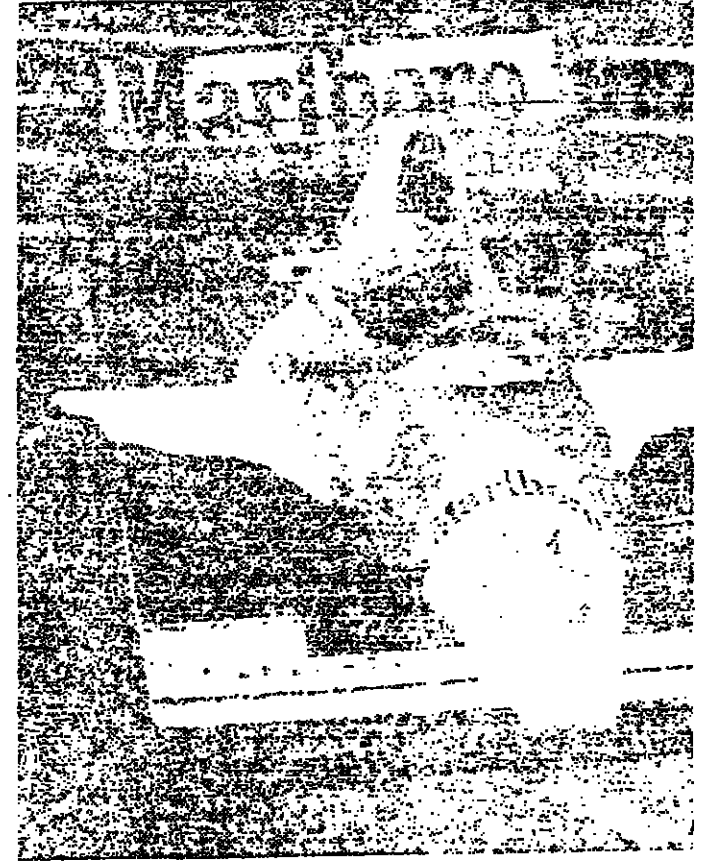
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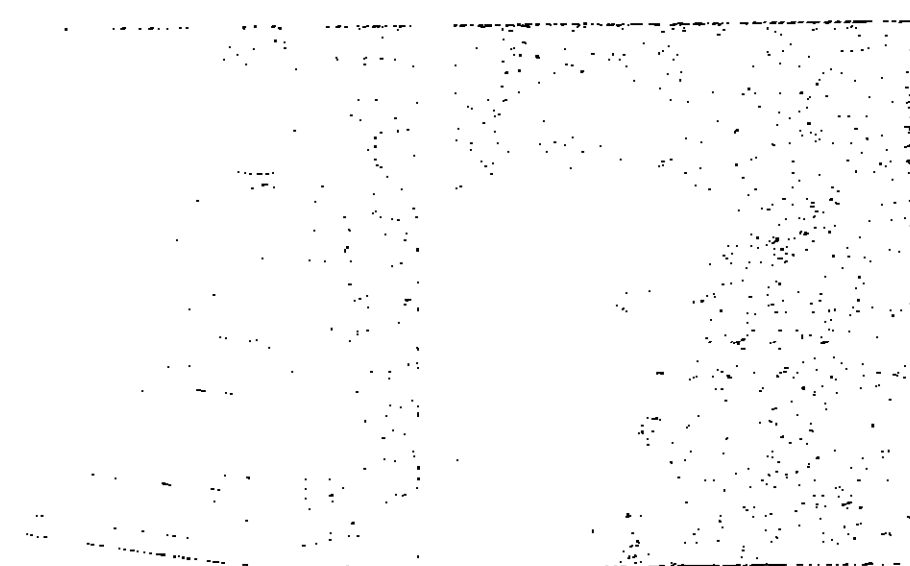
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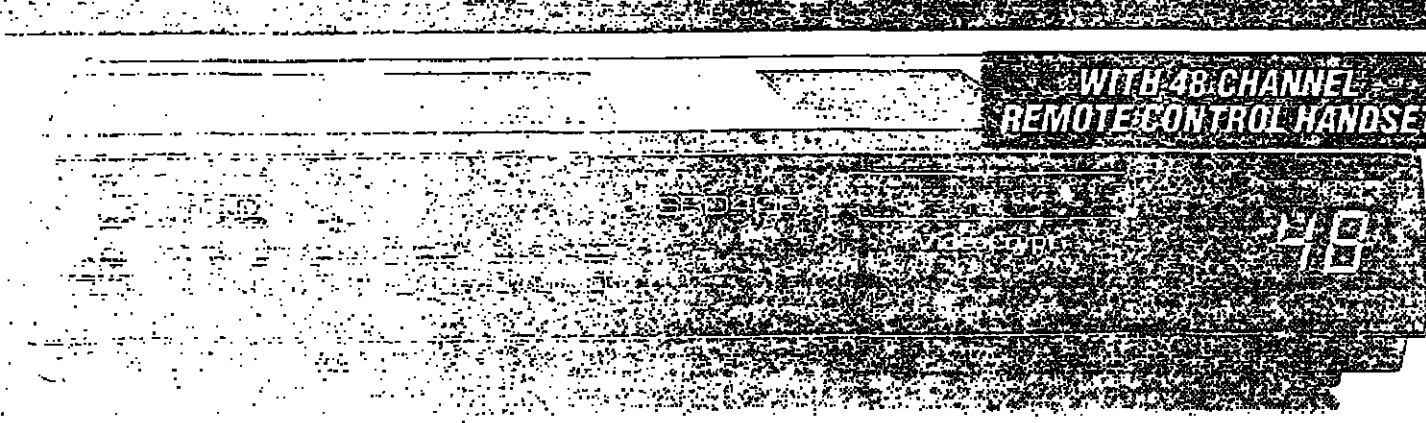
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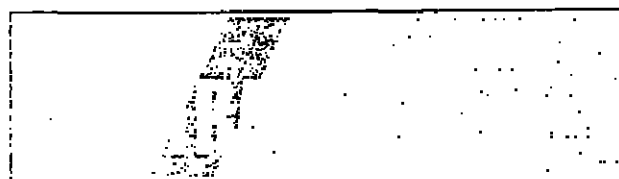
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Fears of militant protests cast a shadow over rallies for disabled

THE decision to drop charges against 14 disabled demonstrators who disrupted traffic in Oxford Street, London, last month has led to renewed fears that radical "guerrilla" organisations and militants within the disability movement could disrupt today's rallies for better benefits.

The Crown Prosecution Service said it has decided not to proceed with charges of highway obstruction because it was "not in the public interest". The cases were due to be heard next week.

A member of the Campaign for Accessible Transport (Cat) said this meant militants were now more free to act at the rallies, which have been organised by the Disability Benefits Consortium, an umbrella group, with the co-operation of the police, who will act as stewards. More than 15,000 disabled people are expected to take part, many in wheelchairs and some on respirators.

The organisers are determined that the three rallies - in Trafalgar Square, London; Albert Square, Manchester; and George Square, Glasgow - will be peaceful. Alan Holdsworth, the national organiser of the rally, said: "Officially, I am not aware of any action that has been planned." A member of Cat said: "You do not put 8,000 disabled people together in London without something happening. Cat has not officially called a demo but I am sure if something happens, Cat members will be there."

Disability groups are concerned

This week's decision not to prosecute 14 disabled protesters has highlighted a division within the campaign movement. Ruth Gledhill looks at the aims of today's rally organisers

that illegal action could alienate Parliament and the public and sabotage the benefits campaign. Sally Wicher, of the disability consortium, said a threat of direct action could keep people away from the rallies. "We are trying to get the maximum number of people to make our point through numbers as opposed to law-breaking. We have no evidence of any organisation planning direct action. We need public support."

Speakers in London will include Jack Ashley, MP, chairman of the all-party disability group. Campaigners are calling for a "proper disability income scheme" to replace the benefits system and they are protesting against plans to introduce a new disability allowance outlined in *The Way Ahead* white paper.

One member of Cat said last night that there were plans for illegal action during the busy shopping days before Christmas, although officially the group denies this. Attempts to "catch" buses that are not accessible to wheelchairs, by parking wheelchairs in front of them as demonstrators in Oxford Street did last month, could cause great disruption.

Further action is also planned for next year, the tenth anniversary of the Year of the Disabled. Although

there are complaints from British disability campaigners, benefits and facilities in this country compare well with the rest of Europe. Britain leads the field in terms of access to public transport and it also makes better provision than most of its neighbours for access to offices, public and leisure buildings and lavatories.

The Department of Employment is launching a campaign next week to bring more disabled people into the workforce, with a new symbol for employers to demonstrate their commitment to good policies. Under the national quota system, employers with more than 20 workers are supposed to ensure that 3 per cent of employees are registered disabled. Only 24 per cent meet the requirement, partly because only 1 per cent of the population is registered as disabled. There have been only three prosecutions in the last 15 years for failing to meet the quota.

The department has looked at the German quota system of 6 per cent, met by 20 per cent of companies, but it does not believe it is better. The French system, in which the quota of 5 per cent is to go up to 6 per cent by 1991, has not been examined.

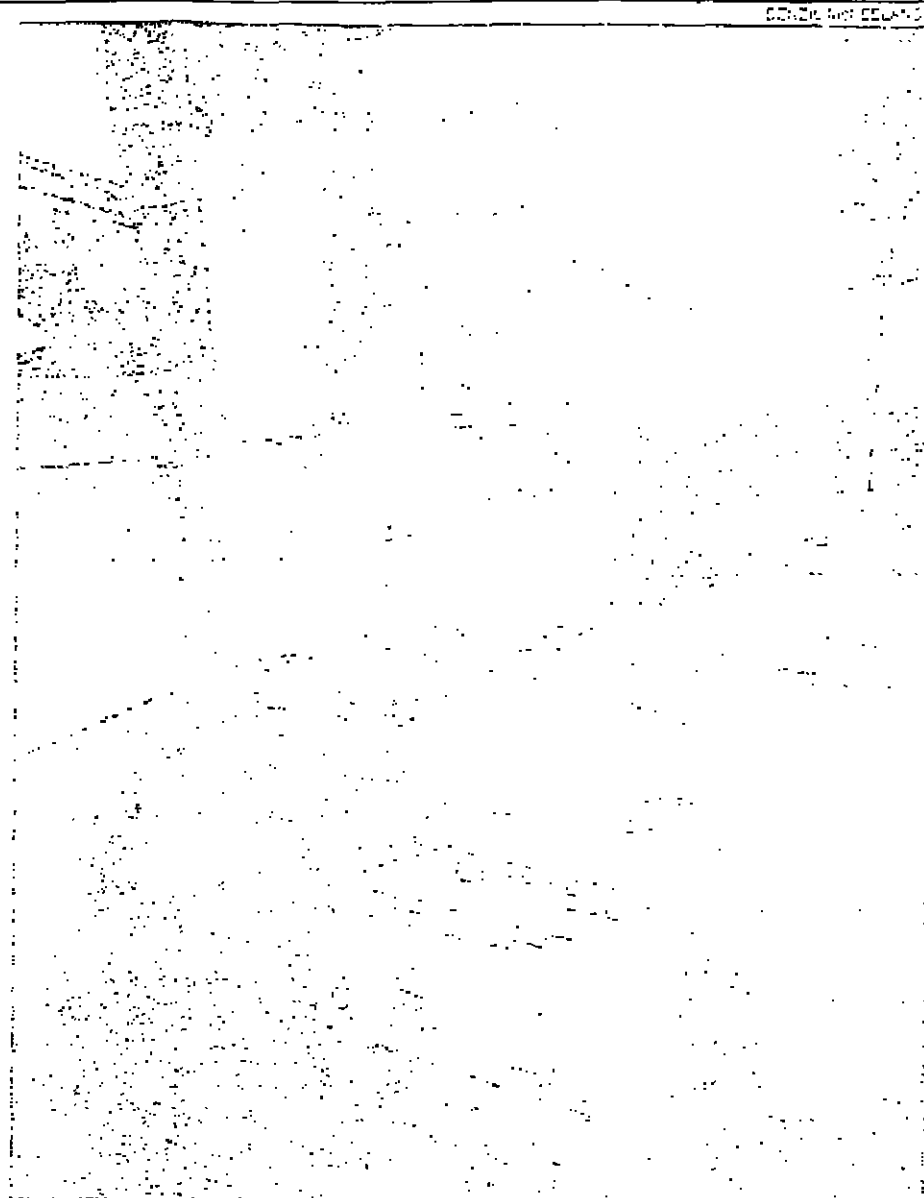
According to research being prepared by Radar, the Royal Association for Disability and Rehabilitation,

Britain is about halfway up the European league table of benefits for disabled people. Disabled people in The Netherlands, Germany, France, Belgium, Italy and Luxembourg receive better benefits. In Greece and Portugal, however, many disabled people receive no benefits. The situation in Spain is confused and a costly pension scheme is being reviewed.

Nigel Pegram of Radar said plans to introduce a disability employment credit for disabled people who cannot work full-time was long overdue. "Other European countries have recognised this need for many years."

Bill Buchanan, adviser for the disabled to the British Railways Board and chairman of the Prince of Wales Advisory Group on Disability, said, however, that British Rail is better equipped for disabled people than any country in Europe, with the possible exception of Switzerland. "We have more trains that can carry disabled people in wheelchairs. We have stations equipped for disabled people." Only in some parts of the country, where new rolling stock has not yet been installed, do disabled people in wheelchairs still have to travel in the guard's van.

While most other European countries use saloon cars for taxis, more than 4,000 taxis in London can accommodate wheelchairs. Mr Buchanan, who uses a wheelchair, said: "I travel a fair amount in Europe. In some countries, you wonder whether they have ever heard of a disabled person."



The TTT held up a demonstration supplying a bus in Oxford Street last month

TV chiefs urged to fight Ulster broadcast curbs

By MELINDA WITTSTOCK, MEDIA CORRESPONDENT

HUMAN rights activists, journalists and media unions yesterday called on broadcasters to take a more active role in fighting the Northern Ireland broadcasting ban implemented by the government two years ago.

Invokes to cover the £40,000 cost of legal action against the ban, which prevents words spoken by members and supporters of 11 loyalist and republican organisations - including Sinn Féin - from being heard on radio or television, were handed to the BBC, ITN, and Channel 4

by more than 200 protesters yesterday.

Elizabeth Forgan, Channel 4's director of programmes, who accepted an invoice, said Channel 4 would "look into it", but added that the legal budget was already overspent in fighting the government's impartiality amendment to the broadcasting bill.

The BBC said it was not taking its invoice seriously, but issued demonstrators with a letter from John Birt, deputy director general, making clear the BBC's continuing opposition to the ban.

Mr Birt said the ban "prevents broadcasts from capturing the full reality and texture of events and issues in Northern Ireland". It undermined the BBC's independence to formulate and carry out its own editorial policy.

Frederick Emery, of the BBC *Panorama* programme, told the rally that the ban, implemented under legislation designed only for wartime and not used since the second world war, was "a travesty of any claim that Britain is the home of free speech". He said an episode of *Star Trek* is to be censored because it mentions British forces leaving Ireland in the 21st century after an IRA victory.

Scarlett McGuire, a former president of the National Union of Journalists, criticised broadcasters for interpreting the ban too broadly, applying it to relatives of the Guildford four and the Birmingham six.

A High Court judge yesterday ordered the *Bath Evening Chronicle* to hand over 28 unpublished photographs of the Horfield prison riot in Bristol to Avon and Somerset police.

Judge Fallon said: "It seems to me that it must be inevitable and unfortunate risk which photographers have to brave that someone may not want them to publish any photographs that they have taken. I cannot see, however, how that risk is increased when unpublished material is only handed over pursuant to a court order."

Computer insurance warning

By NICK NUTTALL

TECHNOLOGY CORRESPONDENT

ORGANISATIONS that take out insurance for computer breakdowns may soon find claims rejected if failure is as a result of a virus attack.

The Association of British Insurers has been asked by members to draft the wording for a computer virus exclusion clause. It comes in the wake of a survey which found that losses from the rogue programmes that can damage sensitive electronic data and make systems break down, could be costing £5 billion worldwide.

The association, whose members include Sun Alliance, Commercial Union and General Accident, said that a committee was considering the virus exclusion clause but that it was at a member's discretion to include it in any policy.

David Davies, computer insurance expert at Hogg Insurance Brokers, told the magazine *Computer Week* that many of the people who negotiate and buy insurance policies are not computer literate and may not understand the significance of a virus exclusion clause.

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Kohl plays decisive hand to hasten EC currency union

From MICHAEL BINYON
IN BRUSSELS

HELMUT Kohl's decision to throw all his political weight behind plans for the swift achievement of European monetary union has decisively tipped the balance of the debate at a crucial time.

His endorsement of a fixed starting date, January 1994, for the second stage of economic and monetary union comes a week before the Rome summit, and again underlines the importance of the Franco-German alliance in pushing the European Community towards ever tighter political and monetary union.

There is now a general expectation that all European leaders except Mrs Thatcher will endorse the German chancellor's call. Officials are suggesting that the broad lines of debate at the inter-governmental conference on EMU will be settled long before it begins. Britain's partners will make every effort to accommodate the arguments of John

Major, the Chancellor of the Exchequer, and incorporate what they can of his "hard ecu" plan. But in the end, Britain is likely to be left alone in opposing the setting up of a central European bank in the second stage and the inevitable move to stage three, the establishment of a single European currency.

Jacques Delors, the European Commission president, believes monetary union to be far more important than the integration of political institutions in forging a new federal Europe. EMU, he argues, will lead inevitably to closer political co-operation, though the opposite is not necessarily true.

He also believes that Germany holds the key to both. That is why the arguments over the past two months have become the battle for the German vote. Mr Major made a tactical alliance with Karl-Otto Pöhl, the president of the Bundesbank, whose professional commitment to monetary stability and the defence of the German mark made him

increasingly suspicious of anything that could compromise the independence of the Bundesbank or give outsiders a say in the fight against inflation.

The alliance appeared to pay off last month in Rome, when German doubts, expressed also by Theo Waigel, the finance minister, coincided with a skilful argument by Mr Major that a leap into stage two without proper definition or criteria for economic convergence was folly. Mr Major received unexpected support from his Spanish counterpart but this was again a tactical move: the Spaniards are anxious to force more regional funds out of Brussels to help them adjust to EMU, and were publicly airing their doubts as a negotiating tactic.

Mr Delors was depressed. But the next finance ministers' meeting last week saw things move his way. The Dutch, anxious to bridge the gap with Britain, put forward their compromise, which agreed on the need for prior economic convergence and put the date for stage

two back a year until 1994. Spain also had second thoughts, probably after Felipe González, the prime minister, with his own eye on the top job in Brussels, reined in his finance minister. M Delors compromised: to insist on 1993 risked cementing the opposition around Mr Major.

He also knew that the decisive vote was not Herr Pöhl's or Herr Waigel's but the German chancellor's. And here he counted, correctly, on the deeply held conviction in Bonn that, in the wake of unification, Germany must bend over backwards to demonstrate its European commitment. Herr Kohl, prompted by Hans-Dietrich Genscher, his foreign minister, continues to see the alliance with Paris as the clearest way of expressing this. Germany will stick with the French line. And France will support M Delors.

Neither Mr Major nor Britain's partners want Britain to be left stranded. All reject a "two-speed Europe". In any case,

EMU cannot come into being without British consent, as the Treaty of Rome cannot be amended except unanimously. The other 11 have sometimes threatened, in their exasperation, to go ahead without Britain in a separate treaty, but this is largely bluff. During stage two, due to start at the beginning of 1994 but whose length is so far unspecified, the 12 will have to decide when and how to move to their final goal. They may offer Britain a face-saving formula to rejoin the consensus.

The danger is not that Britain would be economically disadvantaged by dragging its feet: many other countries outside the exchange rate mechanism, such as Switzerland and Sweden, are doing quite well.

There may be an economic penalty to pay for the perception that Britain was being left behind: just as proposals for completing the internal market produced a dynamic of its own, so proposals for EMU may help all those nations

aiming to forge a common currency. The real damage of being left behind is political. British opposition to further moves along the path to EMU would deprive Britain of any influence in drawing up the conditions and criteria. As one official here asked: "Who will listen to British advice on how to get to stage three when they know Britain will never sign up for it in any case?"

All now depends on what happens in Rome next week, where EMU will be a main summit topic. If Mrs Thatcher plays rough, her partners—who have learned that the best tactic is to try to isolate her—may in turn insist on setting a date for stage two now. If she argues, instead, that Britain will keep an open mind until the inter-governmental conference, the crunch may be delayed until December. Either way, M Delors is optimistic that monetary union now has an unstoppable momentum, although he will go out of his way not to rub in the point to the British.

Odds weigh against Gorbachev's plan as confusion reigns

From MARY DEJEVSKY IN MOSCOW

THE key question confronting the Soviet Union after the passage of the economic reform plan is whether it will work.

Pavel Bunich, an economist in President Gorbachev's stable of academics, described the question as "inconsequential". Anatoli Sobchak, the forthright mayor of Leningrad, said that it was of the essence. Stanislav Shatalin, co-author of the so-called 500-day programme to rush the Soviet economy to market in less than two years, answered by saying that he would do his best to ensure that it did. Grigori Yavlinsky, Mr Shatalin's co-author and deputy prime minister of the Russian Federation, said that it would not, and resigned.

By yesterday, parliamentary deputies had had three days to scrutinise the plan, but even the experts could still not agree on what sort of a programme it was. President Gorbachev insists that the document, which he presented formally to parliament yesterday, is a combination of the two original schemes: the reworked government plan drafted under the supervision of Nikolai Ryzhkov, the prime minister, and the "500-day" programme. This assessment, along with the programme, has been challenged from both ends of the political spectrum.

On Wednesday Boris Yeltsin, the president of the Russian Federation, said that the plan, now called "general guidelines", was an attempt by the government to preserve the "command/administrative system". Many radicals agree with him. Yesterday, however, Mr Bunich told reporters that the programme was "basically the 500-day programme" and owed little or nothing to the government's proposals.

The confusion seems to stem from two misapprehensions: the first is that President Gorbachev was ever in favour

of the wholesale decentralisation of the economy as set out in the original version of the "500-day" programme. His own amendments to that plan made it clear that he intended to keep the Soviet Union together by maintaining central fiscal control. If Mr Yeltsin and other leaders were either deceiving themselves or were deliberately misled.

The second misapprehension is that the centrist elements in the programme necessarily cancel out the devolutionist elements. As was pointed out by a number of speakers in parliament yesterday, the "guidelines" allow more leeway for the republics than any of the earlier programmes, simply because they delegate many responsibilities for policy-making to the republics. These include the delicate questions of private property and private land ownership, even though ultimate financial control, including control of tariffs and foreign currency, stays with the centre.

The "centre" may not be the vast bureaucracy for ever. According to the "guidelines", the republics are to be represented on the board of the central reserve bank, the central foreign currency fund, the regional development fund and an "inter-republic committee on economic reform".

These bodies might have no power worth speaking of, or they might be forums paralysed by argument. But if they are given real power, and if they learn how to use it, then the description of the programme as predominantly centrist may have had more to do with ensuring its safe passage through a distinctly non-radical parliament than with its real substance.

Even taking this most optimistic view, the chances must be slim that President Gorbachev's "general guidelines" for the stabilisation of

the national economy and the transition to a market economy will produce the desired effect—a sharp fall in the internal budget deficit and an improvement in living standards within two years. Although Mr Gorbachev and his advisers agree that the risks of doing nothing far outweigh the risks of embarking on the transition to the market, the dangers are still colossal.

Given the economic despair, the risk of nationwide disillusionment is probably less than it would have been a year ago, and Mr Gorbachev has wisely given only the vaguest timescale for his measures to take effect.

On retail prices for basic necessities, Mr Gorbachev has heeded the experience of last May and the repeated warnings of Mr Ryzhkov, and concurred that the political and economic situation is too volatile to allow rapid change, still less a monetary reform. Even so, the planned combination of harsh fiscal measures and imminent price rises on non-essential goods (unspecified) is bound to arouse strong popular resistance.

So, too, are promised measures (not yet published) to counter non-co-operation from the republics. The three Baltic republics, and probably Georgia, are unlikely to submit to what will undoubtedly be financial *diktat* from the centre for at least a year. The Russian Federation has not yet determined its stance.

Whatever happens, Mr Gorbachev has characteristically ensured that even comprehensive failure cannot be laid at his door. The "guidelines" approved in principle yesterday pre-suppose that each republic will adopt and then act on its own reform programme in conformity with the central guidelines. If the programme does not work, the republic, and not the president, will be expected to take the blame.



Exhausted Czechoslovak rescue workers wait for transport home after 22 miners were killed in an explosion on Thursday half a mile below ground at the May First coal mine in the Ostrava-Karvina district of northern Moravia, which left eight still missing yesterday. The blast happened when

the blade of a tunnelling machine struck a rock and the resulting sparks ignited a pocket of methane gas, according to a Czechoslovak journalist at the site (Peter Green writes from Prague). Initial rescue efforts were hampered by an intensive fire at the sight of the explosion, which was later

extinguished. Fifteen rescue squads from area mines worked through the night to rebuild shafts and corridors to reach the scene of the blast and bring survivors and victims to the surface. Zdenek Karasek, the mine director said all security measures had been followed.

Walesa aide accuses BBC of bias in Polish presidential campaign

From OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT IN WARSAW

A SPOKESMAN for Lech Walesa in his presidential campaign yesterday accused the BBC Polish service of broadcasting propaganda against the Solidarity chairman and trying to sway voters in favour of the prime minister, Tadeusz Mazowiecki.

The opening up of Eastern Europe has created a particularly delicate situation. The BBC Polish service—much admired by ordinary Poles—recently won the right to rebroadcast its programmes on ultra short-wave, and can thus be clearly heard on average radios.

Piotr Wierzbicki, a columnist on *Tygodnik Solidarnosc* (Solidarity Weekly) and a leading campaigner for Mr Walesa, said yesterday that the BBC had gone too far.

"They promote the Road group (which wants Mr Mazowiecki to be elected president) and campaign against the Centre Alliance and Lech Walesa. On controversial questions only one side has a say most of the time."

For years under communist rule the BBC Polish service

and other Central European language sections were attacked as subversive, when they challenged the information monopoly of the government and giving a voice to dissidents such as Jack Kuron, now a minister in Mr Mazowiecki's government. But there is no longer a monolithic media. In Wrocław an independent television station has been set up. The old communist-run press monopoly, known as RSW, is being dismantled.

The BBC's role in Eastern Europe is changing quickly. To Mr Wierzbicki—and thus to Mr Walesa—that means the BBC should adhere to the more closely to the rules of objectivity in force on the World Service and the domestic channels.

"I wouldn't mind if the employees of the BBC Polish section set up their own private broadcasting company whose sole aim would be to support Road, fight Walesa and fantasise about selected writers. But at the moment they are making all their election propaganda under the

trademark of the impartial BBC," he said.

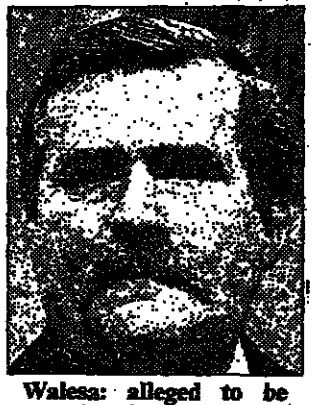
The BBC Polish section yesterday denied any manipulation or bias. Eugeniusz Smolnar, head of the section, said in London: "It is simply untrue and the members of staff make sure that the points of view of all sides are represented on our programmes. We note Mr Wierzbicki's complaint, but he should not generalise about BBC output on the rather narrow basis of one critical

comment about one of his articles."

Ordinary Poles questioned yesterday did not seem unduly upset by any possible bias. "We have a choice now. If you don't like what you hear, you can switch off and get your information somewhere else," said an office worker and a regular listener.

● Bomb threats: A plague of bomb threats is sweeping Poland, some of them plainly political. Mr Walesa's election staff received a bomb threat on Wednesday night, and the Peasants Party has received three bomb warnings. No bombs were found, however, have disrupted everyday life, threatening explosions in hospitals and on Thursday, in 37 schools in Warsaw and several dozen in the rest of the country.

The culprits are believed to be children, and four youths have been detained. Two bombs exploded earlier this month—in the offices of Kodak—and one went off last week in a Czechoslovak discotheque, so threats are taken seriously.



Walesa: alleged to be a victim of "propaganda"

Yard teaches Poles art of catching crooks

From ROGER BOYES
IN WARSAW

ELEMENTARY, my dear Watson. Holmes studied his companion with quiet superiority. Ever since the British knowhow fund had placed a Polish detective by his side, the master had felt a need to lecture on the criminal urge common both to capitalism and post-communism.

"So," drawled the master, after a deep drag of his pipe. "You have democracy, and yet you have a crime rate that is soaring to the heavens. Young me'er-do-wells shoot gas guns at Warsaw constables. Gangs abound. Things are getting worse from day to day. The police have lost control."

"Precisely, sir," said Watsonowski, fingering a button on his chequered waistcoat, made to measure by a Bialystok tailor. "And people are beginning to say it was better when we were a police state."

"Dangerous humbug, my good doctor. What you need is not less democracy but more detection. Call in Scotland Yard."

And sure enough, Scotland Yard is on the job. Six leading British police officers, including a fingerprint expert and a forensic scientist, have agreed to come to Warsaw next month and fight crime in Poland. Polish detectives in turn will travel to

Britain. A comprehensive training scheme is being worked out, with the assistance of British superintendents, to teach former secret policemen how to catch crooks rather than dissidents.

"The British police have been helping us for some months," Commander Janusz Wydra said yesterday. "They have submitted a very useful analysis of our problems. Now we have decided to work together to put things right."

The crime rate has been rising rapidly in all the post-communist states, especially Poland, Hungary and Czechoslovakia. Partly this is a statistical quirk. Under communism, the figures were understated. Since the police have a less political image, more people are reporting crimes. But there is a notable increase in violent crime, in burglaries and assaults.

For some months there has been a gang war in Warsaw central station as rival groups of pickpockets fight for terrain with flick knives and powerful gas guns, easily purchased in licensed gun shops. The police have tried to regain control with saturation policing, but it is still enough for a captured thief to shout "Help, help, the police are beating me" for a share of the stolen car market and even running their own prostitute rings, undercutting Polish prostitution.

A complete lack of trust in the police is the legacy of a police state. Krzysztof Kozłowski, the new Solidarity minister, is trying to polish the police image, and has purged almost the entire leadership. Out of 18,000 former secret policemen, only 8,000 have survived the vetting conducted over the summer. Prominent Catholic activists have been installed at the top, police stations call on the local priest to bless their patrol cars, contingents of constables now attend religious pilgrimages.

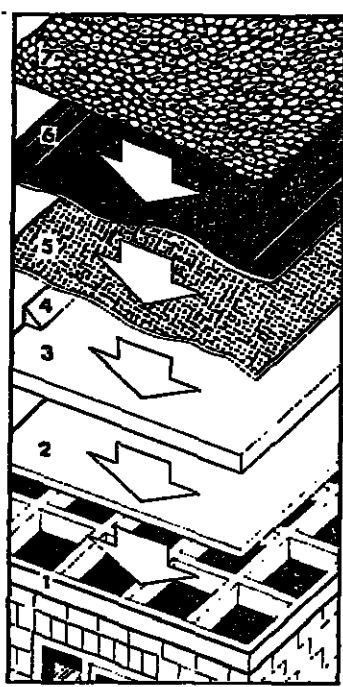
None of this deters the criminal. Thefts from private property increased by 117.8 per cent so far this year, thefts from state property by 182 per cent. Only 23 per cent of the crimes committed over the past year have been solved. In Warsaw the detection rate is near zero.

Polish sociologists say that the crime wave has its roots in the problems of transition between systems: the impoverishment of society, unemployment (edging towards the million mark), and the lack of controls on black marketeering. But statistics also show a steep increase in cross-border smuggling of weapons, gold and amphetamines.

Soviet criminals are also moving into Poland, fighting for a share of the stolen car market and even running their own prostitute rings, undercutting Polish prostitution.

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Aoun family allowed to quit Lebanon for France

From JUAN CARLOS GUMUCIO IN BEIRUT

LEBANON last night allowed the family and aides of Michel Aoun to leave for asylum in France a week after they took refuge in the French embassy. But General Aoun himself, who had fought a two-year struggle to establish a Christian state, remained with two of his supporters confined to the French embassy compound. The war cost 700 lives and left 1,500 wounded.

As his wife and three daughters left last night for Paris, along with 17 aides, distressed relatives stood outside the embassy vainly trying to see them or relay messages.

At the same time, a French request for an investigation into the alleged killings of Christian troops put additional strain on its relationship with Lebanon. France

asked Javier Pérez de Cuellar, the United Nations Secretary-General, to look into reports of alleged summary executions of Lebanese soldiers in Syrian hands. Salim al-Hoss, the prime minister, termed the request harmful for Lebanon. "France hurts Lebanon and its legal authority by the mere announcement of its request," he said.

The Lebanese government denied reports of Syrian troops murdering scores of Aoun loyalists taken prisoner after the assault which forced the general out of the presidential palace a week ago. A defence ministry communiqué described them as "completely untrue", while the left-wing *al-Safir* daily newspaper said they were part of "a French propaganda campaign".

Privately, officials in Beirut agree that France's call for a UN investigation appears designed to put pressure on the government of President Hrawi, which refuses to allow General Aoun to leave the embassy. Both the Syrian-backed government and Muslim leaders want him to face trial for "crimes" ranging from the death of thousands of people during his two-year rebellion, to the alleged illegal appropriation of \$75 million (£38.5 million).

France, which has been the traditional protector of Lebanon's Christians since the time of Louis XIV, has already infuriated prominent Muslim and left-wing politicians by swiftly granting asylum to General Aoun. President Mitterrand declared that obtaining General Aoun's exit from Lebanon was a question of honour for France.

"France could drop its demand for an investigation (on alleged atrocities) if the Lebanese government decides to allow Aoun out of the country," one diplomat in Beirut commented.

Reports about Syrian soldiers killing prisoners in cold blood have provoked a strong reaction among the Christian community and in France. Most of them are based on the testimony of employees at the Baabda military hospital who said they saw corpses with clear signs of "summary execution". They said many of the estimated 100 bodies taken to the mortuary since Saturday had their hands tied behind their back and bullet wounds in the head and chest.

The ministry's statement emphasised that the soldiers were killed in combat. Reports about "executions" include one of a Syrian killing spree of prisoners to avenge serious losses while assaulting the hill of Dahr al-Wahsh.

According to military sources, the Syrians suffered most of their estimated 500 deaths when they were tricked by General Aoun's soldiers, who pretended to surrender but opened fire when the Syrians came within close range. One of the reports says that the Syrians, once they had captured the hill, rounded up prisoners and shot them.

Hostages 'taken out of Beirut'

From JUAN CARLOS GUMUCIO IN BEIRUT

INDICATIONS that the Western hostages could have been smuggled out of Beirut emerged yesterday with reports that Terry Waite and John McCarthy could now be held by their Muslim captors somewhere in the Syrian-controlled Bekaa valley.

One of the reports quoted Lebanese military intelligence sources as saying that the Muslim kidnappers drove the British and American hostages from the capital shortly before the Syrian army moved into the suburbs in preparation for last Saturday's attack against General Michel Aoun.

Security sources confirmed yesterday that the bulk of the Hezbollah militia withdrew to southern Lebanon and the Bekaa valley last week, raising the possibility that the kidnappers and their victims had moved simultaneously.

If the hostages have been moved to the Bekaa valley, it would be difficult for the Syrians not to know their exact location. The bulk of the Syrian army in Lebanon, including the military intelligence headquarters in the village of Anjar, is deployed in the valley and Syrian troops maintain checkpoints on every road of the Bekaa.

There was speculation yesterday that the hostages could be held either at Baalbek's Abdullah barracks, a former Lebanese army garrison occupied by Iranian Revolutionary Guards since 1982, or in the village of Nabi Sheet, a Hezbollah stronghold about 12 miles to the south.

On Wednesday Farouk al-Shara, the Syrian foreign minister, again hinted at the possible release of British hostages but added that the resumption of diplomatic relations with Britain would certainly help efforts to obtain their freedom.

Bush pledges he will not weaken

From MARTIN FLETCHER IN WASHINGTON

PRESIDENT Bush pledged yesterday that the US would "stay the course" and would not compromise in its determination to reverse Iraq's invasion of Kuwait.

He was speaking in Washington shortly before meeting Yevgeni Primakov, President Gorbachev's special envoy, at the White House, amid speculation that the Soviet official was bringing new ideas from Moscow on how to achieve a peaceful resolution to the conflict. Some reports have suggested that these might include settlement of Iraq's territorial and financial grievances against Kuwait in return for its withdrawal.

Mr Primakov denied that he was bringing specific ideas, but emphasised that the Soviet Union was doing its utmost to see implementation of the UN resolutions demanding Iraq's withdrawal through peaceful means. He met President Saddam Hussein earlier this month, but denied he carried any message from the Iraqi leader. He also said on Thursday that he agreed with the US position that Iraq should not be rewarded for its aggression.

Mr Bush told a meeting of Italian Americans that he was "as determined as I was the day that the first troops left (for Saudi Arabia) that Saddam Hussein's aggression not be rewarded by some compromise, not be rewarded by our failing to get him totally out of Kuwait or

restore the legitimate rulers". He continued: "The bottom line is, he can't prevail. And so we're going to stay with this, stay the course and send a strong message out there."

Behind Washington's public determination that Iraq should not be rewarded for its aggression is another consideration. Giving President Saddam a face-saver to make it easier for him to withdraw his troops would only preserve him in power and ensure that he remained a threat to Middle East stability. Officials believe that a humiliating retreat, on the other hand, might be enough to ensure he is toppled by his own people.

The *Washington Post* meanwhile reported yesterday that US military officials are drawing up rotation plans for US troops in Saudi Arabia, and may draw on forces based in Europe. This would be the first time for US troops attached to the Nato force to be deployed outside the region since they were based in Europe after the second world war. It would mark another break with the Cold War era, when the defence of Europe against the Soviet threat was paramount.

Mr Primakov's meeting with Mr Bush marked the completion of a round of diplomatic consultations for the Soviet official, who travelled to Washington after talks on the Gulf confrontation with Italian and French leaders in Rome and Paris.



Desert warriors: a soldier models new camouflage clothing in London before a statue of the second world war campaigner, Viscount Montgomery of Alamein

Body armour shields troops in the desert

By MICHAEL EVANS, DEFENCE CORRESPONDENT

THE Desert Rats will be the first British troops to fight a war protected by body armour if hostilities break out in the Gulf, the defence ministry disclosed yesterday.

The armour, made from a variety of woven fibres, is lighter and more flexible than flak jackets worn by soldiers in Northern Ireland and reported to be more comfortable than that worn by the Americans. It has been under development for several years, but has come off the production line just in time for deployment with the 9,500-man 7th Armoured Brigade in Saudi Arabia.

The defence ministry said that the armour, weighing 5lb, had been designed to protect soldiers from fragmentation injuries, the commonest form of wounding in conventional war. Casualties should be reduced by 60 per cent, the ministry says.

In Northern Ireland the heavier, dark-green flak jacket is worn to protect soldiers from high-velocity bullets. "The new armour is not intended to be a bullet-stopper," one defence source said yesterday.

More than 5,000 new sand-coloured desert uniforms, including the body armour,

are being flown to the Gulf. The defence ministry had a large collection of desert clothing but it was all sold to Iraq several years ago.

Each British soldier will be given three sets of desert clothing. The basic kit for going to war will include a new Mark VI helmet, underpants with leggings to protect against gas attacks, goggles to counter the effects of wind, sun and sand, and anti-glare glasses.

In the event of a chemical warfare attack, the Desert Rats will be expected to wear a cotton T-shirt, combat jacket, body armour and the all-over nuclear, biological and chemical protective clothing.

For those taking out a new life insurance policy, the defence ministry has offered to pay 90 per cent of the additional premiums demanded by insurance companies.

Meanwhile, in Germany, an operation has swung into action to comfort the 3,500 wives and 6,000 children left behind. While their husbands are away on six-month tours of duty in Saudi Arabia, the wives will be entitled to two return journeys to Britain on a "troop flight". Or, if preferred, relatives from Britain can come out to see them.

Shamir says US picking on Israel

From A CORRESPONDENT IN JERUSALEM

YITZHAK Shamir, Israel's prime minister, has accused the US of picking on the Jewish state because it does not know what to do about Iraq.

"I have the impression that the Americans don't know what to do about Iraq, so they are preoccupying themselves with us," Mr Shamir said yesterday in the Hebrew newspaper *Maariv* in his most belligerent statement among increasingly harsh comments about the US in recent days.

The prime minister is said to be angry about the US sponsorship of the UN Security Council resolution that condemned Israel over the killing of more than 20 Palestinians at the Temple Mount on October 8. Israel says the resolution is one-sided and has refused to co-operate with a UN investigation.

"They are saying in Washington that Israel's refusal to co-operate with the UN may sabotage American efforts in the Gulf," Mr Shamir said. "These are just stories."

In Jerusalem yesterday police for the second week running prevented thousands of Muslims from getting to prayers on the Temple Mount.

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Washington edges slowly towards a budget trade-off

From SUSAN ELLICOTT IN WASHINGTON

THE US Senate inched America's budget impasse closer towards solution yesterday, by approving a bipartisan plan to cut the country's soaring deficit by \$500 billion (\$263 billion) over the coming five years, but plenty of scope for failure remained.

The 54-46 vote shifted the burden in the marathon budget process to a conference committee of members from both sides of Congress, the House and Senate, to craft a compromise that President Bush is prepared to make law.

The committee faces the near-impossible task of melding by midnight the Senate deficit-cutting bill with a different version passed earlier this week by the House of Representatives, returning the result for a revote in both chambers, and obtaining White House approval.

Mr Bush, however, has raised hopes that a second budget showdown in three weeks could be prevented by saying that he would be willing to extend the deadline by five days if Congress is making "satisfactory progress" on a bill that he approves. Unless Mr Bush signs a further emergency spending measure,

under which the federal government has been operating since the first week of this month, all non-essential departments will lose their spending authority. The House and Senate aim to reach a swift compromise this weekend, since members of Congress are anxious to dispel public ill-feeling about the budget impasse, as members work toward the final stage of their re-election campaigns.

Casting some doubt over the likelihood of a smooth end to months of wrangling over the largest budget deficit-cutting package in US history, however, Mr Bush has not said what he would consider to be "satisfactory" progress. "We'll decide at the time," said his official spokesman, Martin Fitzwater, meaning at midnight.

As tourists make contingency plans in case the government closes national monuments and parks for the second time this month, a private firm yesterday ran three-quarter page advertisements in *The New York Times* and *The Washington Post* under the mocking banner: "But, George, if you close the government what on earth is

left to do in Washington, DC?" Among its recommendations: shopping, a cruise on the Potomac river, opera at the Kennedy Arts Centre, a ride on the "world's finest" underground and a drive past the city's embassies.

Mr Bush favours the Senate budget version, which contains no changes in income tax rates but would in effect increase taxes on the most wealthy by limiting their eligibility for deductions against tax. He has threatened to veto anything that closely resembles the house version, which increases the rate of income tax on America's top earners from 28 per cent to 33 per cent, and delays for one year the automatic inflation-indexing of income tax bands. Both versions seek to trim \$40.1 billion from the \$290 billion budget deficit.

The final package looks almost certain to raise taxes on the most wealthy—a move strongly backed by the Democrats—and probably some increase on tax on petrol. It appears likely to omit the House inflation-indexing clause which would in effect raise the income taxes of average earners.



Read my lips: David Ridenour and fellow members of a group called Americans Against Tax Hikes calling for noisy protest at a rally outside the White House

Reaganauts see their triumphs turning to dust

From PETER STOTHARD, US EDITOR, WASHINGTON

THERE were no jellybeans at the Mayflower Hotel. The Reagan alumni had not come there for relaxation.

Two hundred former members of Ronald Reagan's two administrations filled Washington's most elegant ballroom on Wednesday night for a reunion and private briefing about next month's congressional elections. They heard speeches from the former president's favourite pollster, Richard Wirthlin, from Lyn Nofziger, White House ideologue of the 1980s, and a few words from Edwin Meese III, Mr Reagan's close friend and counsellor who at gatherings such as these is held to embody the absent "Gipper" himself.

The mood of the alumni was morose. "Everything you have fought for is at risk," they were told. The Bush White House had caused a "disaster". "The Democrats think they have cleaned out the clock and now hold Republicans in contempt," said Ed Rollins, the former Reagan campaign boss and current congressional campaign director.

The most optimistic verdict on the budget debacle was that "it was too soon to tell how it would affect voting decisions". Mr Wirthlin, court prophet in the Reagan White House and now on contract to the Conservative Party in Britain, said that key races would not be decided till the last ten days. "The nation's politics is more volatile than at any time I recall in 30 years."

Mr Wirthlin tried to draw comfort from the widely reported figures showing that three-quarters of all Americans believe the country to be on the wrong track. "Concern first turns to anger and then anger turns to fear," he said. "That anger will crystallise before the poll. In whose favour? No one knows."

Inside the baroque ballroom, the Reaganauts' anger was crystallising around their own scapegoat—their successors. According to the characteristically disbeliever Mr Nofziger, "budget director Dick Darman always had a plan and it always included a tax increase". Jeers all round. It was still bad form among alumni to attack Mr Bush, former vice-president, directly. But Mr Rollins came close. "He forfeited the tax issue, got nothing in return and now he's got a disaster on his hands."

"How will the tax reversal affect the Senate elections?" Mr Nofziger asked Richard Shelby, head of the Republicans' Senate campaign. No reply.

Mr Shelby reported that the ultra-conservative Jesse Helms in North Carolina was in "a much closer race than we'd like" against a black challenger, Harvey Gantt. In Oregon, the second Democratic Senate target, the race was "closer than it should be". Mark Hatfield, the Republican incumbent, "is too much a gentleman," commented Mr Nofziger.

Earlier in the year the alumni had expected to see Republican Senate gains in Iowa, Illinois and Rhode Island. Private polls in Rhode Island allegedly still put the Republican, Claudine Schneider, closer behind the veteran Democrat, Claiborne Pell, than the public polls gap of 20 points. The 14-point lead of the Democratic incumbent, Tom Harkin, over Republican

Thomas Tanke in Iowa was also dubbed "exaggerated". But the optimism rang hollow.

Mr Rollins reported on the house races, in which few seats were once thought likely to change hands. There was the danger now that Republicans would refuse to participate at all. "Just remember that the alternative is worse," he pleaded. "We are in real danger of losing all you've worked so hard for."

"We have eight or nine house incumbents in trouble. The Democrats have reinvigorated their core vote in the past few weeks, particularly among the old. When a president has 75 per cent approval rate it is made up of blacks and Democrats on top of the Republican base. The Democrats are now going home."

For the Reagan alumni, who first organised themselves in order to keep the flame alive when their boss was still in the White House, the greatest worry is that the Democrats may succeed in painting them as the party of the rich.

Mr Wirthlin attempted to be reassuring. "There's very little feeling of rich versus poor," the pollster reported. "The concern is about the government acting in its own interest, not in the people's interest. One man in North Carolina told me last week that 'the people in Congress can't wait till the lights go out before they steal whatever isn't nailed to the floor'."

His analysis may be right. But the difficulty for all sides in this election is in knowing how the anti-government attitude, which does appear to be growing, will affect votes. Will that North Carolina voter cast his ballot against the incumbent, Mr Helms, or against Mr Gantt, whose party actually controls Congress? "The result could turn on a dime," according to Mr Rollins.

"This is an election of fear and anger, not hope and opportunity," in Mr Wirthlin's view. It is also an election in which new low standards of modern electoral behaviour are being set, with one of Mr Bush's top aides calling a Democrat opponent "slimy" and "weenie", with John Tower calling Nebraska Senator James Exon, "one of the biggest boozers in the Senate," and with charges of nude swimming parties with teenage girls becoming mere political small change.

In Michigan, the Republican has accused the Democratic governor of using the tactics of Adolf Hitler. As for Kevin Phillips, Edwin Meese III, the spirit of Mr Reagan's past, dubbed him "the Republicans' Lord Haw Haw". He won one of the only laughs of the Mayflower night out.



Nofziger: fearful of the tax effect on elections

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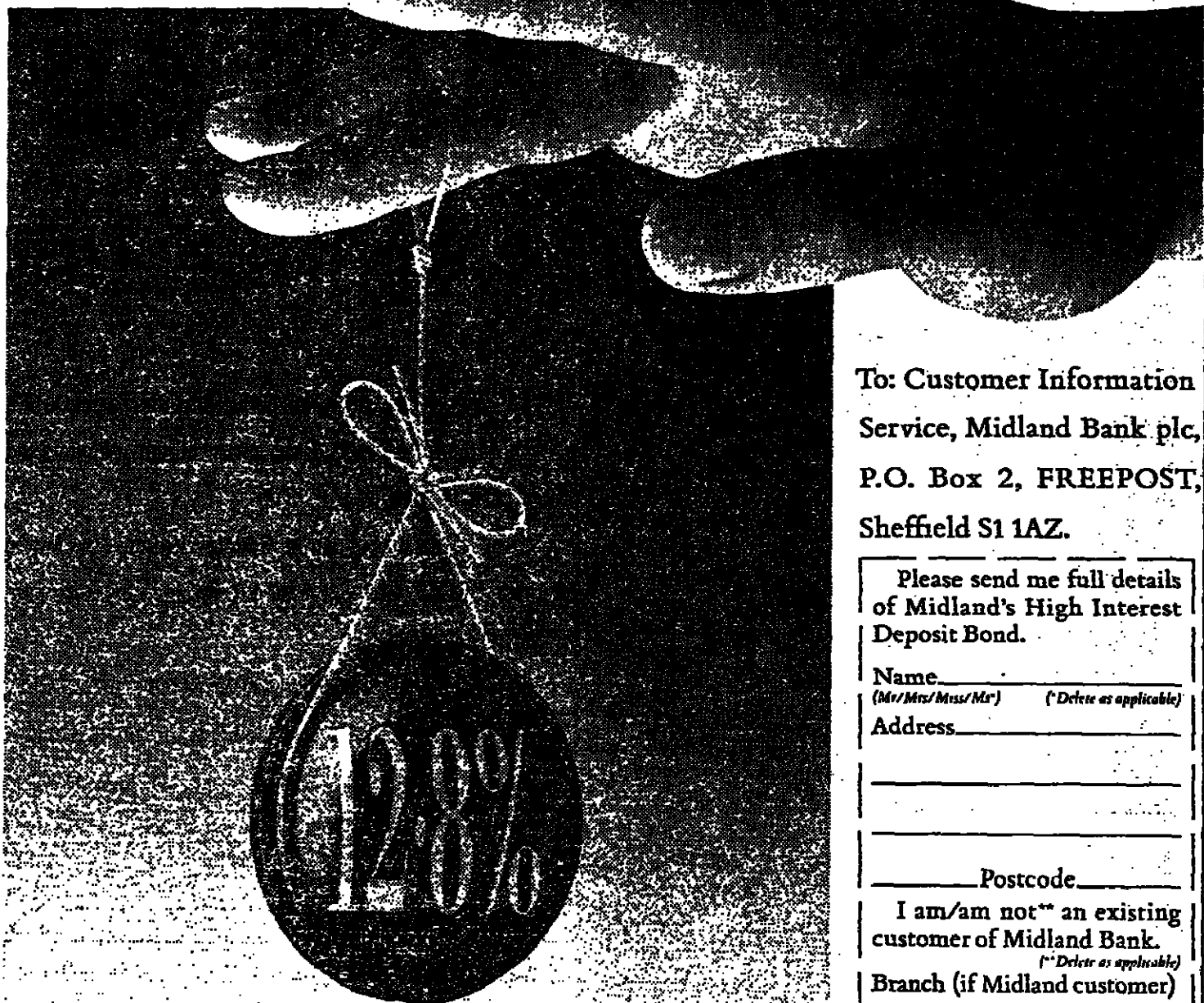
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Superpowers unite in plea for peace

From MARTIN FLETCHER IN WASHINGTON

THE US and the Soviet Union have called jointly on the Salvadoran government and rebel left-wing guerrillas to intensify their search for a negotiated solution to their decade-old war.

The joint statement is a further manifestation of the superpowers' new readiness to work together to resolve regional conflicts, which were fuelled in the 1980s by their Cold War ideological rivalry. The statement, issued simultaneously in Washington and Moscow, said the US and the Soviet Union "consider it desirable that the parties to the conflict intensify their negotiations with a view toward reaching political agreements and a ceasefire as quickly as possible. They also consider that both sides in the dialogue should refrain from military actions which would damage the prospects for peace."

Hoping to emulate the co-operation which helped end the war in Nicaragua this year, Washington has been pressing the Soviet Union to assist and President Bush raised the subject with Eduard Shevardnadze, the Soviet foreign minister, when they met in New York earlier this month.

Unlike the Nicaraguan Sandinistas, who depended on huge Soviet aid, Moscow has

direct influence with only one of the five Salvadoran rebel factions, and the new joint statement is not likely in itself to prove a breakthrough. However, Washington believes Moscow will step up pressure on Cuba to cease supplying arms to the rebels and to support peace efforts. Washington is also hoping that Moscow may further sideline the rebels by establishing diplomatic relations with El Salvador.

United Nations talks to end the war in El Salvador which began in early summer have made little progress, and US officials accuse the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front, the rebel coalition, of stalling. Sporadic fighting has continued and only this week the rebels launched a big attack on a military airfield. Congress is meanwhile threatening to cut by half military aid in 1991 to the government of President Alfredo Cristiani.

Colonel Mauricio Vargas, deputy chief of staff of the Salvadoran armed forces, told *The New York Times* that the joint superpower statement was "great news" and "could really bring about a political solution, and not just a military solution". It was a call from international civilisation to end the hostilities.

*GROSS INTEREST PAYABLE PER ANNUM OVER A 6 MONTH FIXED PERIOD. INTEREST RATES MAY VARY, BUT THE APPLICABLE GROSS RATE ON THE DATE OF INVESTMENT WILL REMAIN FIXED THROUGHOUT THE INVESTMENT PERIOD. INTEREST IS PAID AT THE END OF THE TERM AND WILL BE SUBJECT TO BASIC RATE TAX AT THE RATE IN FORCE ON THE DATE OF INTEREST PAYMENT. NET RATES QUOTED ARE INDICATIONS ONLY BASED ON THE CURRENT BASIC RATE OF TAX. INTEREST WILL BE PAID GROSS TO NON-TAXPAYERS. SUBJECT TO THE REQUIRED CERTIFICATION. IF A BOND IS CLOSED PRIOR TO 6 APRIL 1991, INTEREST WILL BE PAID AT THE FOLLOWING NET RATES ON WHICH THE BASIC RATE TAX LIABILITY WILL BE DISCHARGED BY US AND CANNOT BE RECLAIMED: 6 MONTHS 9.25%, 12 MONTHS 9.25%. THERE WILL, HOWEVER, BE A PENALTY FOR EARLY CLOSURE. INTEREST RATES ARE CORRECT AT TIME OF GOING TO PRESS. TAX LAWS MAY CHANGE. MIDLAND BANK PLC IS A MEMBER OF MIBG. ©MIDLAND BANK PLC 1990.

Crackdown on foreign 'contaminators'



Strategic victory: a member of the rebel coalition fighting the Phnom Penh regime surveys the ruins of Banteay Chmar temple, scene of fighting earlier this year and a powerful psychological symbol in the war for Cambodia

Rise of the hardliners sets back hopes of Cambodian reform

FROM JAMES PRINGLE IN PHNOM PENH

A FRENCH medical team organising English and French lessons in an eastern Cambodian province has had to abandon its efforts on the orders of local communist party officials. They apparently fear "contaminating" foreign influences.

Elsewhere, foreign doctors are arriving at hospitals to find the Cambodian staff missing because they are attending compulsory political lectures. Here in the

capital, new directives to limit contact between foreigners and Cambodians have been introduced.

With negotiations for peace in Cambodia bogged down in a welter of recrimination between the warring factions, a new and tougher leadership has taken over in Phnom Penh and is cracking down on political liberalisation.

The move to a more conservative Marxism is perhaps inevitable, given the ascen-

dancy of hardliners in the two principal Asian communist states, China and Vietnam, whose leaders are appalled by the collapse of socialism in East Europe.

Hun Sen, aged 39, the reformist prime minister who represents the Vietnam-backed Cambodia regime in the stalled negotiations for peace with the other Cambodian factions, including the Khmer Rouge, has been outflanked by more conservative figures.

This has led to the emergence of Chea Sim, an enigmatic figure who, like Mr Hun Sen, is a former Khmer Rouge. Mr Chea Sim is chairman of the national assembly and number two in the politburo of the Kampuchean People's Revolutionary Party, the only legal party.

A former Buddhist monk, Mr Chea Sim, aged 60, is not opposed to the economic *laissez-faire* which has transformed Phnom Penh in the past two years, with new cars, motorcycles and consumer goods available for those who can afford them. But rather than open up the political process he prefers to strengthen discipline within the party for electoral battles that may lie ahead.

"Chea Sim is the strong man of the regime now," said an East European diplomat. "Hun Sen and his reformers have seriously lost ground."

Paradoxically, Chea Sim is relatively popular, because he is seen as having distanced himself from the Vietnamese, who are only slightly more acceptable to many rural Cambodians than the Khmer Rouge. He is said to be deeply religious.

In the past six months, Mr Chea Sim has filled most government and party positions with people loyal to him, diplomats here say. The hardliners are said to be concerned that Mr Hun Sen gave too much ground in the negotiations with the opposition coalition headed by Prince Norodom Sihanouk, the exiled former ruler, while receiving little in return.

Perhaps he also developed too high a profile for the taste of Mr Chea Sim and the figurehead party secretary-general, Heng Samrin.

De Klerk race step endorsed

FROM GAVIN BELL IN JOHANNESBURG

PRESIDENT de Klerk was buoyant yesterday after the Transvaal congress endorsed plans to open the National Party to all races, paving the way for a broad alliance with moderate leaders outside the African National Congress.

"We can now say that all four (provincial) congresses have finally prepared the National Party for the new South Africa," he told 1,000 cheering delegates. "We are on the moral high ground, in that we can now defend everything for which we stand. Our goals are beyond reproach, and we can say with elation that the National Party is on course."

Officials said a committee including seven cabinet ministers would meet soon to discuss forming alliances, and to consider proposals for a new constitution.

R. F. "Pik" Botha, the foreign minister, was characteristically ebullient. "It has been an unbelievable journey," he said. "We are on the threshold of breaking out of decades of isolation." Mr Botha urged white voters to support the Nationalists in a by-election in a Johannesburg suburb next month.

The Nationalists are expected to win comfortably in Randburg, an affluent, liberal constituency, as the Democratic Party has decided not to defend the seat it won in the last general election.

Despite belligerent talk of civil disobedience and demands for a snap election, a sombre mood prevailed at the Conservatives' national congress in Natal. There were calls for a tax revolt and veiled threats to take up arms, but closer scrutiny revealed an introspective party deeply worried about being swept aside by the winds of change, and grudgingly prepared to compromise on aspects of its racial partition policy. Andries Treurnicht, the party leader, urged his supporters five times in a public address not to despair.

The congress agreed that partition should not be imposed on other races. In other words, whites should have their own state without prescribing to others what they should do with the rest of the country.

Peter Hain, page 12

Peking dismay at US trade rebuff

FROM REUTER IN PEKING

CHINA accused the US House of Representatives yesterday of being "destructive" by voting to end its most-favoured nation status and by hiking its trade with Peking's human rights record.

Diplomats said China's swift and sharp reaction to Thursday's resolutions showed that strains in Sino-US relations were still acute more than 16 months after Peking's killing of pro-democracy protesters in Tiananmen Square.

The House voted by 247 to 174 to overturn President Bush's decision to extend China's most-favoured-nation status for a year, and by 384 to 30 to attach human rights to future extensions.

China's foreign ministry said in a statement the resolutions "will exert a destructive impact on economic and trade relations between the two countries and will surely result in a serious slide back of bilateral relations between the two countries."

An official US source in Peking said China's leaders were well aware that Mr Bush, who in May extended the special status for a year, would veto attempts by Congress to block the measure.

The Senate still has to consider the issue of status, which gives China's exports to the US lowest available tariffs. America is China's third-largest trading partner after Hong Kong and Japan and,

according to US figures, Peking ran up a \$6 billion (£3 billion) surplus last year.

"We hope that the US government will make a wise decision on this matter by proceeding in the overall and long-term interests of Sino-US relations," the Chinese statement said.

Chinese officials have estimated the withdrawal of the status would cost Peking \$10 billion, mostly in exports of textiles, clothing, toys and consumer electronics.

Diplomats said the House resolutions dealt a sharp rebuff to Mr Bush's China policy and showed that he was still under pressure not to restore relations with Peking. "Some countries still have strong domestic political reasons for keeping sanctions," a Western diplomat said.

America and most Western nations cut off official loans, high-level contacts and military co-operation in response to the 1989 crackdown. The European Community is expected to tackle the sanctions issue next week with some countries, notably Italy, arguing for a formal relaxation of the measures.

But, diplomats said, the outcome was not clear-cut despite persistent lobbying by China to lift the sanctions.

Congressional opponents maintained that the human rights situation in China had barely improved since last year.

Peasants gain from Mengistu rethink

FROM ANDREW LYCETT IN HARER

ON ONE side of the hard mud road, 15 miles south of here is a burnt-out armoured personnel carrier; on the other, a neat village of 50 huts, topped with straw from its sorghum crop.

Both are relics of the Ogaden war a dozen years ago, when Somali tanks broke through Ethiopian defences at Jijiga, and roamed through these highlands, seeking to encircle and capture Harer. Hundreds of thousands of Oromo tribesmen fled their homes.

When they returned, the Ethiopian government, at the height of its Marxist zeal, rehoused them in these pristine villages where they would farm collectivised land and be closer to organs of social and political control.

Despite the greater access to health and education services, the farmers recreated the collectives. They were vulnerable to recruitment for Addis Ababa's northern wars as government press gangs would demand quotas of conscripts from each community.

Times are beginning to change. In March, responding to years of poor

agricultural output, President Mengistu announced that peasants could again own private land. Since then, farmers have moved out of the collectives and returned to their old plots. Smoke now billows from battered huts which look nothing like as comfortable as the government units.

But the farmers say they are closer to their fields. Women do not have to walk so far to bring their menfolk their afternoon supplies of *chai*, a locally grown plant with mildly narcotic effects.

In parts of the country, state-run co-operatives have tried to stop the defection to private plots. But peasants, wielding rifles, have turned on party workers: killings have been reported in Shoa and Gojam provinces.

The peasants are able to afford weapons because they are beginning to reap the benefits of another of President Mengistu's reforms, the overhaul of the unpopular state agricultural marketing system. Previously, they had to sell all their produce at fixed prices to a marketing corporation.

The corporation has now virtually ceased to exist. In Tinike, west of here, maize now sells at 90 birr (£22.50) for

220lb, 30 per cent more than a year ago. Elias Adem, chairman of the local co-operative, said the organisation is now run on a voluntary basis.

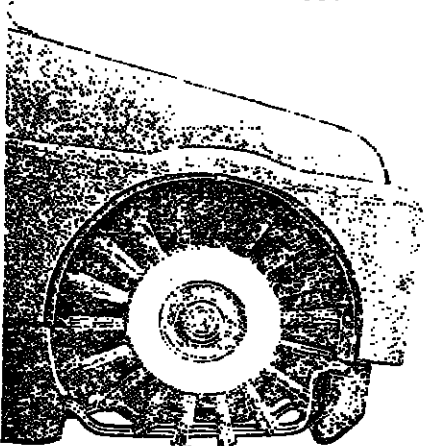
It helps channel loans from the UN's International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) to help farmers buy oxen. Yeshitila Yehualawork, manager of the Agricultural and Industrial Development Bank in Addis Ababa, said: "This country is changing from socialism to a mixed economy. There are still voluntarily organised peasants' associations. But the old producers' co-operatives, which used to own land collectively, are falling apart. It was a wrong system. Distribution has improved, you can see it in the market."

Tomatoes, onions and the ubiquitous *chai* are widely available in village markets. An extra 50,000 tonnes of food are on sale in the markets around Harer as a result of the reforms.

Throughout the country between 5 and 20 per cent more land is under cultivation. Chris Mason, a local representative of Oxfam, the British charity, said: "Individual farmers are now producing more than what it took six or seven to produce collectively."

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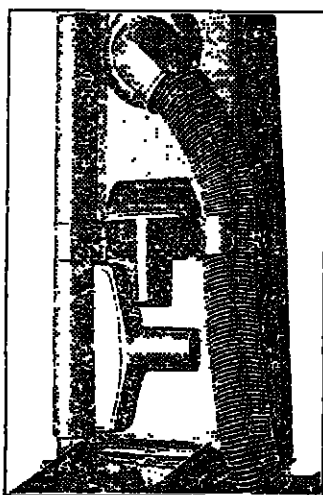
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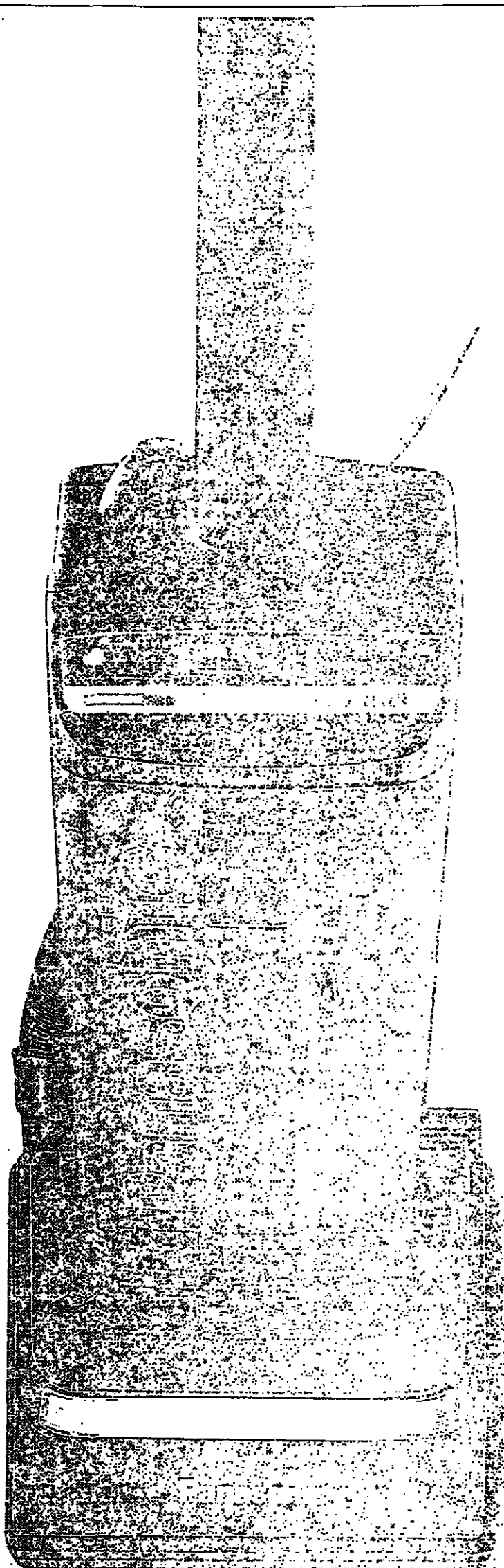
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Give the Boks a nibble

Peter Hain

After recent changes in South Africa, should two decades of sporting isolation be ended? In my view the answer is, in general, no, but subject to certain conditions, yes. The general boycott should be maintained for the foreseeable future. It has proved its worth by forcing change. With the country in political flux, to lift it now would be premature.

But specific sporting links should perhaps be resumed earlier than previously thought — provided that British sports authorities obtain the prior consent of anti-apartheid organisations.

Things have changed. First, sporting isolation has forced white sports officials to jettison their commitment to segregation. South Africa's "Mr Rugby", Dr Danie Craven, who once vowed never to select a black, now talks of multiracial sides.

Second, the new political era produced by the Mandela/Klerk negotiations has underlined the necessity for white sports bodies to dissolve into the non-racial (albeit predominantly non-white) sports organisations, in order to win a ticket back into international competition.

It is rarely appreciated that almost every sport has a non-racial organisation parallel to the white body that has historically enjoyed an exclusive relationship with the outside world. These non-racial bodies are linked to the South African Non-Racial Olympic Committee (Sanroc), which has been based in London since the early 1960s. At home, they come mainly under the umbrella of the National Olympic and Sports Congress (NSC), which is linked to the African National Congress and is now the key organisation within South African sport.

There has recently been considerable debate within non-racial sporting circles as to the best way forward. The ANC has indicated that certain tours may be possible while the general boycott remains in force. Football organisations are merging and looking for admission to the next World Cup.

The chairman of Sanroc, Sam Ramsamy, has advised the International Olympic Committee about the conditions under which South Africa might be admitted to the 1992 or 1996 Games. He has also handled with consummate skill private discussions requested by long-time opponents from the white sports world.

While I visited the country secretly a year ago to make a TV film for *World in Action* on the rebel Mike Gatting cricket tour, many non-racial rugby and cricket players told me they would love the opportunity to tour Britain.

Subject to full consultation and agreement with Sanroc, the NSC and the British Anti-Apartheid Movement, it may now be possible for the non-racial sports bodies to arrange pilot tours. These could proceed through

round-table discussions between the anti-apartheid movements and, for example, the Rugby Football Union, the Cricket Council or the Football Association.

Whether such an opportunity is taken depends on building a basis of trust. That will be difficult, given the unprincipled and often devious stance characteristic of British sports officials towards apartheid. But would it not be good to have a tour officially blessed by anti-apartheid campaigners, rather than disrupted by them?

A selective, stage-by-stage, approach would allow certain South African clubs, or national sports that have fully integrated, to make foreign contacts, even while the general boycott continues. Such a strategy would also promote a shift in the balance of power, as white sports organisations realise that their own future depends on co-operation with anti-apartheid forces.

For, despite recent reforms, black sport at ground level remains in abject poverty, denied decent opportunities and resources. Over 90 per cent of sport is still on racial lines, especially at club level. School sport remains rigidly segregated. A sprinkling of black faces in a national team cannot hide the reality that sports apartheid continues.

A comprehensive lifting of the boycott could occur only after a political settlement leading to majority rule and a democratic future for South Africa. Another prerequisite is fundamental change in the structure of the country's sport, including properly non-racial national sports organisations, legislation to prohibit racially exclusive sports clubs and school sports leagues, and a crash programme to equalise sports opportunities and facilities (at present for every 1,000 rands spent on white sport, only one rand is spent on black).

There must be no attempts to arrange unauthorised tours of South Africa or by South African teams abroad. That has happened too often in the past, notably with the Gatting tour early this year. Any attempt to repeat such exercises would set back the prospects for ending the boycott.

Sports sanctions have achieved massive changes, as even white sports leaders like Danie Craven and Ali Bacher, of the South African Cricket Union, now accept. To progress further, anti-apartheid campaigners are willing to show imagination and flexibility in setting a new agenda from their current position of strength. If white South African and British sports officials respond honestly, a settlement might finally rid the world of the cancer of sports apartheid.

The author, prospective Labour parliamentary candidate for North, was chairman of the Stop the Seventy Tour Campaign.

Clifford Longley is on holiday.

...and moreover

MATTHEW PARRIS

If scientists wish to investigate the human body's defences against stomach upset, I offer my own findings for their research. These days, I never, simply never, get an upset stomach. For the last year my alimentary canal has been proof against the most appalling assaults. More than a month in Peru and Bolivia, followed by a week in Albania followed by the ultimate test, the Labour party conference in Blackpool, saw me sail confidently through digestive storms that reduced comrades to hunched, quivering wrecks.

And it's odd, because I am not particularly robust. I seem to have had an incipient sore throat and lingering cough since the day I was born. But the old tummy, always one of my stronger points, has recently come to seem almost invincible. What is my secret?

Well, now I think I know. Let us start at the beginning. The water supply at my house in Derbyshire comes from a spring in the hills. It pours into a stone trough and is then pumped up to a small storage tank in my loft.

The water is uncommonly pure and I do not treat it. I just drink it. But for the last year or so, I have noticed a slight — very slight — "taste" to the water. Nothing to complain of, but you can tell it makes the tea taste different. I thought little of it, though.

Until this weekend past. I returned to Derbyshire after three weeks in Bournemouth, Albania and Blackpool. The house had been empty and the water had been standing in the system all that time.

And now the taste was unmistakable — that same taste, but stronger. It was almost unpleasant. There was a very faint smell to the water.

Still, I was too busy to do anything about it. I drank the water as usual, and washed a couple of machine-loads of sheets, which should see me through to 1992. By Sunday I must have drunk a few gallons of the stuff, and felt fine. But that taste really wasn't right.

but I take the view that if they are still swimming, that is a good sign. I unlocked the cover. No, no frogs, dead or alive; no slugs either.

I tried a glass, removing a lively waterboatman. Tasted fine. Bother. That meant the loft, and the ladder with missing rungs, and the torch with the flat battery. Up I went.

As my eyes adjusted to the dark, I realised that the cover was off the little storage tank, and remembered replacing it off last year and never taking it. Him, I shone the feeble beam into the murky depths, and looked. Something horrible looked back at me.

It was a bat. A very big bat. A very big dead bat. A very big long-dead bat. Oh yes, my friends, this (as Mrs Thatcher would say) was an ex-bat; a late bat; a previous bat. This bat had gone to meet its maker. So long ago, in fact, had this bat gone to meet its maker that it was only just recognisable as a bat. You could have mistaken it for a bad case of mushroom soup. Except, that is, for the little, sodden, furry face, which now stared eyesless up at me in unspoken reproach.

And I had been drinking that, probably all year. I fished out the bat bits and descended, queasily, to begin flushing the tank.

But have I not found the answer to stomach problems? Is not purified bat the way to immunise yourself against intestinal upset? Was it not the homeopathic drip-drip of ever more concentrated decaying bat that had, over the months, fortified my stomach against Peruvian bacteria and Blackpool toxin?

This, surely, is the way to guarantee the health of the water-drinking masses: pollute the water! Forget your chlorine and your fluoride; a dead bat in every loft-tank in every home throughout the kingdom should be our environmental health officers' goal.

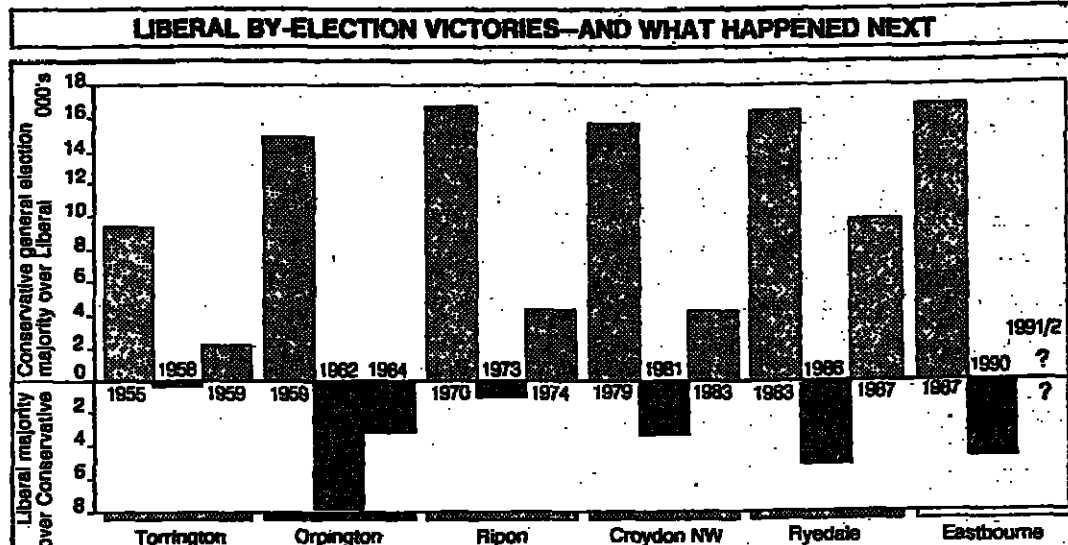
There is now a flat taste to the Derbyshire water. Water-with-a-hint-of-bat was what I had become used to. I miss it. And I shall not bother to wash those sheets again. On a warm night, if I bury my face in them, they remind me.

David Butler puts Eastbourne in context, but sees a tactical-voting threat to the Tories

Ashdown's fragile euphoria



Liberal victors against the odds: Eric Lubbock (left), who scored the most dramatic upset of all at Orpington in 1962, David Aestick (Ripon, 1973) and William Pitt (Croydon, 1981)



national movement of votes on Thursday's scale would leave them with only 14 MPs. But in the real world of general elections, the largest nationwide swing since the war has been 5.2%.

The Conservatives will still be hard to beat, and a Liberal breakthrough is a long way off. In 1987 the Alliance won 22 seats and came within 10% of victory in only 28 others. We shall now hear renewed suggestions of a Liberal-Labour deal, but that will not happen either, because there are too many barriers on both sides. None the less, the tacit anti-Thatcher deal manifested by the Eastbourne electorate may be more widely followed in 1991/2 than in 1983 or 1987.

So when, in the light of Eastbourne, will Mrs Thatcher call the election? In theory it could be held on any weekday between now and July 11, 1992. In practice there are few possible dates. Six days out of seven are ruled out by custom, for Mrs Thatcher is probably not radical enough to challenge the ingrained habits of the Home Office and the broadcasters by altering the convention of Thursday voting that has been observed since 1935.

There are customs, too, about months. Christmas, winter weather and summer holidays cut out large sections of the year. Nine of the last 12 general elections have been held either just before midsummer or in October, ahead of

the new parliamentary session in November.

So the next parliament is likely to be elected either next year on May 2 (to coincide with local elections), June 6 or 13 (as in 1983 and 1987) or October 10 (as in 1964 and 1974); the likeliest 1992 dates are May 4 (to coincide with local elections), or June 11 or 18 (as in 1983 and 1987).

The May slots have their risks, because of the two-edged sword of the poll tax: no one is yet certain about its electoral impact, but it probably works against the Tories, and even when swamped by a national campaign on other issues, Tory chances could be hurt in a simultaneous contest. I suggest there is a 45% chance of

October 1991 and a 40% chance of May or June 1992, leaving 15% for other possibilities.

If the choice is between next June or October and June 1992, the arguments over timing — whatever happens in the Gulf or EC negotiations — are primarily economic. How will the main economic indicators — inflation, interest rates, and wage increases — be moving at each period? All will be coming down, according to Mr Major, but probably not enough to transform the two key opinion-poll indicators, economic optimism and voting intention.

Much recent commentary suggests that a fall of one or two per cent in inflation or interest rates will induce a considerable alteration in voting intentions. I am sceptical. Although there is wide agreement that the state of the economy is the most important element in deciding elections, there is no agreement on how the economy should be defined.

At one time unemployment seemed to be the indicator that best correlated with the ups and downs in the Gallup polls. Then, under Harold Wilson's tutelage, it was the balance of payments that mattered. In the 1980s inflation and growth statistics have been important. Much of the current political battle is an attempt to define economic success in terms of statistics that Mr Major and John Smith, his Labour shadow, think will fit their arguments when the election comes.

However, political considerations may transcend the economic ones. The public may take a poor view of a government that seems to be clinging to power until the last moment. Alec Douglas-Home almost won in October 1964 by hanging on to the end of the full five years, but Jim Callaghan had cause to regret not going to the country after four years in October 1978.

If defeat seems likely in October 1991, the Conservatives may well choose eight more months of certain power, coupled with the chance that prospects will improve. But if in October 1991 they see the chances of winning or losing as even, they may decide that the gamble of an early election is preferable to a Micawberish flutter on 1992.

The author is a fellow of Nuffield College, Oxford.

Nigel Hawkes, science editor, on what our genes can tell us about healthier living

Mapping the hand dealt by fate

Man is beginning to appear the helpless victim of his genes. Every week new techniques in genetic analysis celebrate a fresh triumph, as yet another common disease is found to have a genetic component. At the moment of conception, it seems, we are dealt a hand that may determine the means, and even the moment, of our deaths.

To the classical genetic diseases like haemophilia, muscular dystrophy, sickle-cell anaemia and thalassaemia are being added many other conditions that were once thought to be unconnected with heredity. Even cancer and heart disease, the greatest killers in the Western world, now appear to be at least partly determined by the fall of the genetic cards. Recently, some forms of the crippling joint disease osteoarthritis were added to the list.

On Monday many of the world's top geneticists are meeting in San Diego for a conference on the Human Genome Project, a \$3 billion, 15-year programme to map and sequence the whole of the human genetic blueprint. The meeting will be an opportunity to review progress so far, and look ahead to the problems still to be

solved if this ambitious and controversial project is to succeed.

They have already come a long way. The dream of mapping the genome and identifying the position of all 100,000 human genes was first seriously considered more than 15 years ago, the location of only 150 genes was known. Now, the scientists need a sophisticated database to store the flood of information that is now being produced.

The Human Genome Project is controversial for several reasons. Some biologists fear that it will cost so much that it will deprive other forms of research of money. Others question whether it is worth sequencing the entire genome, when it appears that a large part of it consists of "junk" genes that have no obvious function.

Geneticists are inclined to boast, rather too boldly, that everything is determined by the genes. This may be an exaggeration, but it does seem to be true that cancer or heart disease — or conditions like Alzheimer's, schizophrenia, and even alcoholism — have a substantial genetic component. An individual's risk of acquiring these conditions is determined genetically,

even if it requires an infection, or an environmental incident, to set them off. That represents both an opportunity and a peril. Like so many scientific advances, it is a coin with two faces.

The new understanding could have huge benefits. In some cases, the discovery of a gene that causes a handicap may lead directly to a drug to alleviate it. The job of each gene is to define a particular protein, and the failure of the gene to function, once identified, can sometimes be compensated for in other ways.

Jerry Bishop and Michael Waldholz's book *Genome* draws an instructive comparison between the lives of Winston Churchill and the tennis player Arthur Ashe. Churchill disobeyed every dietary and health rule ever devised. He ate, drank, smoked heavily and was not famous for taking exercise, yet lived into his nineties. Arthur Ashe, superfit and a non-smoker, suffered two heart attacks before he was 40.

The difference between the two must lie in their genes. As knowledge of the human genome accumulates, we may one day be able to tell a new-born child which class he belongs to. This will

enable people to guard against diseases to which they are known to be susceptible.

Even if a cure is not possible, the discovery of such genes makes it possible to advise individuals carrying them how to minimise the risk of contracting the disease. A carrier of an arthritis gene might be counselled to avoid becoming overweight, or working at a job involving repetitive movements. Some people carry a genetic defect that affects their red blood cells and seems to make them more vulnerable to damage from exposure to industrial chemicals. Such people might be advised not to work in chemical plants.

There is, though, something rather chilling about such genetic determinism. The polite fiction that everybody is born with an equal opportunity to shine in life will find it hard to survive large-scale testing that reveals our very different inheritances. What sort of judgments would employers and insurance companies make if they knew that one applicant had a five times greater chance of dying in middle age than another? Some people fear that genetic testing may create a new class of people who cannot get a job, not because

of their colour or their education, or their abilities, but because of their genes.

Others suspect that chemical companies will use genetic screening as an excuse for not cleaning up their plants. By employing only those workers known to be relatively immune to the chemicals they produce, they can be spared expensive safety measures.

Many scientists grow impatient with this kind of talk. The prospect of tackling the thousands of genetic diseases that have been man's legacy since the birth of time is to them a prospect that ought to be welcomed, not hedged about with premature anxieties about its social impact. Many with experience of a child with a genetic disease will echo that view.

It is clear, however, that the kind of controls now being pioneered in the different but related field of embryo research may one day be needed in genetics, too. Curiosity unconfined by law or social convention can lead to unexpected or even destabilising consequences. Fortunately, there is no doubt that the scientists gathering in San Diego are as aware of that truth as any other citizen.

Worshippers this way...

Only a week after St Paul's sacked its chief executive, Dr Malcolm Postage, over his over-enthusiastic promotional plans, the cathedral is considering introducing admission charges. Although the charge is likely to be voluntary, the intention is to embarrass visitors into feeling obliged to pay. "We don't want to introduce a compulsory charge, but we want to make it rather difficult for people not to pay," says the Dean, the Very Rev Michael Evans. "We estimate that nearly one million people do not contribute anything. If every visitor paid £1 we would be happy."

The dean and chapter accept that something has to be done to meet the annual maintenance costs, now running at more than £350,000.

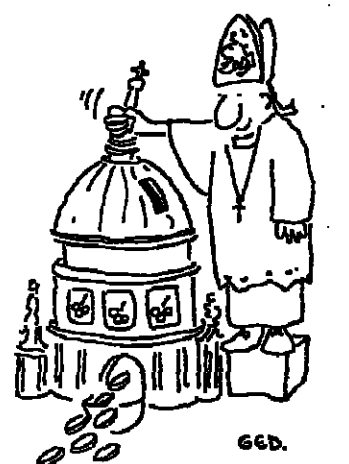
Across London at Westminster Abbey there is equal concern about rising maintenance costs. "We calculate that each person who visits donates an average of only 3.1 pence, about half the price of a box of matches," says Canon Colin Semper, chairman of the abbey's tourism working group. The chapter has become so alarmed at the annual wear and tear caused by the estimated 3.5 million visitors that scientists from the Building Research Establishment have been called in to assess the damage to the floors.

The brass lecturing on the David Livingstone Memorial in the middle nave now stands proud of the stone and it is only a matter of time before it starts to fall off.

says Canon Semper. "In the short time that it has been here, the memorial to Lord Mountbatten has already become scratched and defaced."

The scientists are expected to recommend restrictions on movement in the abbey, with designated "tourist routes".

At St Paul's, Dean Evans, who has just placed a six-figure order for black-and-white Italian marble to renew part of the floor, favours a different solution. "I have just visited a palace in the Crimea where visitors have to take off their shoes before they are allowed in. If we could do the same here, the saving would be enormous."



Agreeing to differ

Despite the best efforts of 15 international experts who met in secret in Switzerland for four days this week, the origins of the £40 million Sesto Roman silver remain fiercely



DIARY

disputed. The sale of the collection of 4th-century dishes and pitchers was announced in February by Sotheby's, which claims to have a valid Lebanese export licence, on behalf of Lord Northampton. Immediately Lebanon, Hungary and Yugoslavia lodged claims in a New York court, and there the matter has remained.

In an effort to break the deadlock, the experts pooled their expertise, examined photographs and consulted reference works. "All we discovered," says Kenneth Painter of the British Museum, "is that it is impossible to deduce from the silver itself where it was found." The lawyers will have a field day.

Plodding Patten

With a growing number of heritage cases piling up in his in-tray, Chris Patten, the environment secretary, is fast developing a reputation as a man who cannot make up his mind. His three-month failure to rule on an export licence for Canova's *The Three Graces* is only the most visible example, according to the

pressure group SAVE Britain's Heritage. "Michael Heseltine was swift and decisive when secretary of state, but Chris Patten seems to have slipped into the mould of taking a long time to make decisions," says Marcus Binney, president of SAVE. He cites SAVE's objection almost a year ago to a plan to convert a Victorian stable block in Enfield, north London, into a cafeteria, as a ruling, is still awaited.

Similarly, there has been no decision on a year-old application to list the tobacco warehouse in the Stanley Docks, Liverpool, to save it from developers.

"If things get any slower," says Matthew Saunders, secretary of the Ancient Monuments Society, "decisions will be taken not in Whitehall but by the elements."

Cool welcome

Even before the dust had settled on David Bellotti's Eastbourne triumph, an unseemly dispute was breaking out at Westminster that may leave him without a desk when he takes his seat on Tuesday. The whips had ruled that should Bellotti win, he would have to share Simon Hughes's cramped office.

With Tory numbers reduced by three by-election defeats since the last general election, Hughes, the party's environment spokesman, and fellow Lib-Dems argue that the Tories should give up some of their space. But Michael Brown, Tory MP for Brigg and Cleethorpes, who shared an office with Ian Gow, is having none of it. "It was a great honour to share with the last MP for Eastbourne," he

Breaking no records

The Department of Trade and Industry is under attack over its alleged mismanagement of a British design promotion in California. Under the banner "Chelsea comes to California", thousands have this week been shuffling through the Crafts Council marquee located behind an Orange County shopping mall to admire the designer goods on offer from 80 British exhibitors. The problem is that they have not been buying anything.

"We have had plenty of sight-seers," says tie-designer Hugh Dunford-Wood, "but all they do is look." Replying to the Crafts Council explanation that Americans are not spending because of the budget problems and the Gulf, he said: "The DTI should have thought of that earlier. Some of those taking part can't even afford to fly their unsold stocks home." Only hours later that problem, for many, became academic. A minor earthquake destroyed most of the glass and pottery items. "What can we do when neither George Bush nor God is on our side?" the Crafts Council lamented yesterday.



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THE TRIVIA OF POLITICS

The result of the apparently sensational Eastbourne by-election implies next to nothing. By-elections are displays of electoral promiscuity. They rank among the meaningless events of British politics, on a par with birthday honours and prime minister's question time. Lord Wilson, when leader of the Labour party, was right never to make any comment on them.

Certainly the Conservatives might have assumed that they could hold such a normally safe seat. As so often before, loyal voters decided, for a multiplicity of reasons, to give the party and its government a rap over the knuckles, a classic protest vote. With a solid Liberal Democrat presence on the borough council, a recipient for that protest was at hand. As in Orpington in 1962, so in Richmond, Epping and Mid-Staffordshire in this parliament, by-elections continue to go against governments and usually to Liberals. Such protest votes mostly come home at general election time, though some few constituencies acquire a taste for rebellion. Most centre party seats, especially those outside the Celtic fringes, were acquired, at one time or another, in a by-election.

For these reasons, any extrapolation of the Eastbourne result to a general election is absurd. A reading of by-elections in Margaret Thatcher's first two terms of office would have had her losing each subsequent national poll. The best that can be said for these occasions is that they indicate the destination of second preference votes for protesting supporters of the governing party. Since the second preference, at least in the south of England, is usually for a centre party, centre parties have come to live on an eternal, valueless sustenance of by-election "upsets". Paddy Ashdown, the Liberal Democrat leader, will take comfort from Eastbourne — he badly needed a publicity coup to counteract his party's poor opinion poll showing — but he should take no more than his predecessors took from their similar triumphs.

The size of a by-election protest is likely to be an amalgam of factors not necessarily related to the poll shares of the parties

nationally. By-election results nowadays litter the electoral graph like random shot, falling well away from opinion poll trend lines. In Eastbourne, relevant factors would have included the identity of the "squeezeable" third party (in this case Labour), the standing of Liberals on the local council, the character of the outgoing MP and incoming candidates; and the implication for the Conservative that a vote against him was a vote for terrorism. This insulting gaffe cost him dear, and was outrageously repeated yesterday by embittered local Tories.

If the two big parties must draw lessons from Eastbourne, they should be the same as applied before polling. Labour's poor showing — a halving of its vote — suggests that the party has made no headway as the natural anti-Tory party in the south of England. Though Labour may be able to pick up seats in southern towns, such as Portsmouth, Bristol, Southampton and Brighton, Neil Kinnock still has much work to do in wooing the middle classes. For the Tories, they must realise that their contempt for local government renders them vulnerable wherever a rival party is regarded as doing well on a local council. Mrs Thatcher's relentless curtailment of local autonomy, coupled with the poll tax, has left Tories in local government demoralised in both local and by-elections. This demoralisation could crucially affect the next general election.

The wider message is equally constant. At mid-term, the Tories may be unpopular, but they have been that before. In the past they have been assisted, come the next general election, by the anti-Tory popular vote being split between Labour and the Liberal Democrats. Eastbourne shows that this split, so important to the result of the 1983 and 1987 elections, remains dominant over the course of British electoral politics. If anti-Tory voters were ever to do at general elections what they do persistently at local ones, and did at Eastbourne, the Conservatives would have serious worries. But tactical voting is still not pervasive in general elections. Perhaps this is not such a discouraging result for Mrs Thatcher after all.

YUGOSLAV NIGHTMARES

The violent revolt by Croatia's large Serbian minority, which has declared an "autonomous region" within the republic, presents the most serious recent threat to Yugoslavia's survival. However dramatic the challenges to what is left of the central government's authority from Slovenia in the north and Kosovo's persecuted Albanians in the south, the one indispensable element in the Balkan melting-pot is coexistence between Serbs and Croats. That is true whether Yugoslavia continues as a federal republic, as Serbia insists, or becomes a confederation of states, as demanded by Slovenia and Croatia.

Yet one effect of the unrest has been to temper Croatian nationalist rhetoric, and terrify the other non-Serb republics. During the election campaign last spring, the centre-right Croatian Democratic Union demanded not only independence for Croatia but floated territorial claims to parts of the republic of Bosnia-Herzegovina too. Once in office, the republic's new government promised to respect its Serbian minority. But Croatia's claims to national sovereignty sharpened fears of persecution, and prompted Serbian nationalists in Belgrade to demand the incorporation of the region into Serbia.

Now, brutally reminded that others can play this dangerous game, Croatia has offered to negotiate, amid reports that it is mobilising its newly-formed republican security forces. The alternatives to a settlement are appalling. Should the Croat militias suppress the Serbian community's demands, not even the Croatian government's strong democratic credentials will prevent Serbian nationalists from evoking the wartime massacres of Serbs by Croatian fascists. Distrust among non-Serbs of the federal army, whose officer class is 80 per cent Serb, is so profound that its intervention would be equally explosive.

Nationalism pervades every aspect of Yugoslavia's triple struggle to dislodge the remnants of communism, to complete the shift to a market economy so bravely begun, and to find ways of retaining ethnic, religious and historical diversity within a looser mould than that imposed by Marshal Tito. Much of this nationalism is the creature of Serbian national-

ism, which has been deliberately fomented by its strongman, Slobodan Milosevic.

The Serbs form the largest group in this country of a dozen "nationalities" and inhabit the largest republic. In most of the others, there are substantial Serb minorities. Serbian irredentism is the force that has united Croats, Slovenes, Kosovo's Albanians and now Bosnians against Belgrade. It has caused formerly pro-Serb Montenegro to distance itself and aroused Macedonian fears of being wiped off the map.

Croatia and Slovenia, the largest and wealthiest non-Serb republics, see the solution as a confederation of allied sovereign states. The Croats have suggested linking up with all the other republics, leaving Serbia isolated. The problem here is the number of Serbs living in the other republics. Serbia has countered by threatening to refuse to recognise the legality of the other republics' borders.

The federal prime minister, Ante Markovic, has staked everything on rapid economic reforms and foreign investment, hoping to give the six republics material incentives for hanging together as a federation. That hope now looks forlorn, so fast are nationalist tempers rising. But separatist zeal might yet be tempered by the prospect, so vividly raised by the fighting in the Dalmatian region of Croatia, of groups fighting village by village to establish the new frontiers of independent states.

Efforts to form a confederation may founder on the mutually-exclusive territorial aspirations of the different republics. The chaos accompanying the "Balkanisation" of Yugoslavia would not necessarily be confined within its borders. Ethnic ferment has already begun to awaken dormant unrest among its neighbours, notably in Bulgaria. The fond pretence of some Western Europeans is that nationalism is an archaic hobby of the East's political dinosaurs. It is not; it is a vital reflection of regional diversity which constitutionalists ignore at peril. The world needs no reminding of the capacity of Balkan nationalism to destabilise the substratum of central Europe. Yugoslavia merits attention and concern.

FOR CRYING OUT LOUD

"Now is the winter of our discontent/Made glorious summer by this sun of York." That noble city, which already has an archbishop, a minister, some substantial Roman remains and a well-deserved reputation for making chocolate, yesterday also acquired a town crier. It has lacked one since 1872. There was a substantial number of applicants for the post, ultimately reduced to six finalists (much like the Booker prize, come to think of it), who included two ladies (much like the Booker prize, come to think of it). After an exciting "shoot-off", as such contests are apparently called, Brian McCusker carried the day. His uniform and bell will be ready on November 16, and the traditional "Oyez! Oyez!" will resound through the town.

But then what? What exactly will the city of York call upon its new town crier to cry? The archbishop and the rest of the great landmarks (especially the chocolate) must be familiar to pretty well every citizen. If Mr McCusker had been appointed by July 1984, he could have tolled his bell with the news that the minister had been struck by lightning, but we all know that lightning never strikes twice in the same place. Nobody would wish for a repetition of that alarming event. One day, perhaps, York will be selected to host the Olympic Games, or at least the British Association, but such windfalls can hardly stretch its newly-appointed harbingers. A spokesman for York suggests that the crier will spend much of his time crying a series of the morning's headlines:

hardly a welcome precedent here, smacking as it does of taking the bread out of the mouths of innocent newspapers. But how else can he use his time?

In a more paritarian age he might be employed to cry "Mrs Higginbotham's garden is in a dreadful mess," or "Councillor Featherstonehaugh hasn't changed his collar for three days," but this is coming dangerously close to the ducking-stool. On the other hand, "Congratulations! Johnny Smith and Maggie Brown have been walking out for three months and he popped the question last night" might be thought an invasion of privacy.

Worse, York may be moved by the prevailing economic climate to privatise its crier. He would then be heard announcing the amazing bargains in ladies' tights to be had at Hotchkiss and Paraday, and proclaiming the excellence of the devilled kidneys on the menu at Ma Poi. He would thus risk the posthumous wrath of his 1872 predecessor, scandalised at the intrusion of commerce into the noble profession.

What York needs, evidently, is another shout-off, this time to determine the best selection of cries for its town crier. If that fails, there is only one, depressing, conclusion to draw from his plight. He will be set to parade the town exhorting those who have not paid their poll tax to do so on pain of stiff penalties under the law. If he does come to that, he should make his rounds with his bell suitably muffled.

Finding the way at the Barbican

From the Managing Director of the Barbican Centre

Sir, May I express our two-fold thanks to Mr Bernard Levin for his polemic on the design of the Barbican Centre ("There's no point in knocking: just bring the house down", October 18), first for a highly entertaining read and second for the most vivid contribution to the brief for our architecture and design team that we are likely to receive from any quarter. The joy of Levin has always been to read such splendid assertions as "... no one has come to love the Barbican Centre and no one ever will or could". That this is a terminological inexactitude is signalled by our own postbag and by our confidence in laying plans with Pentagram Design Ltd, who are one of the most distinguished and appropriate teams of experts operating anywhere. Our owners, the Corporation of London, have approved the appointment at a maximum cost of £210,000.

While sad at Mr Levin's faint heart, we are grateful that he acknowledges his entirely proper enthusiasm for the centre's splendid auditoria. On his next visit Mr Levin may care to investigate another of the centre's beacons "of hope, pleasure and cultural enrichment" — the excellent, and increasingly widely admired, book and record shop on level 7, which stays open until 8 p.m. each evening. Incidentally the need to clarify the "levels" issue will be addressed.

Gauntlets are thrown from no greater height than the Bernard Levin column in *The Times*. The management of the Barbican Centre, in accepting Mr Levin's challenge with relish, would like to issue one of its own: if he can cast aside his extreme and in some cases not unjustified prejudice, we invite him to join us in briefing the designers. We believe he may yet be convinced that something can indeed be done, and to good effect. Sincerely,

DETTA O'CAHAIN,
Managing Director,
Barbican Centre,
Barbican, EC2,
October 18.

From Mr Jamie Crookenden

Sir, Your champion of the oppressed and destroyer of false idols, Bernard Levin, makes a fine contribution to the battle for our buildings in his article on the Barbican Centre.

All the more galling, therefore, for those of us intimate with the disaster that is the Lloyd's building that he, of all people, should help propagate the myth that it is great architecture and thereby help to promote the reputation of the creator of this oppressive monster, the only attribute of which for those of us daily have to wrestle with its problems is its mere 30-year design life. For Barbican, read Lloyd's building.

I remain, Sir, your man in the building.
JAMIE CROOKENDEN,
Lloyd's,
Lime Street, EC3,
October 19.

Maritime heritage

From Rear-Admiral R. O. Morris

Sir, For some time those concerned about our maritime heritage have been pressing for historic sites and artefacts lying below the high-water line or beneath the sea to be accorded the same protection in law as archaeological sites on dry land. The document, "Heritage at Sea", launched last year put forward suggestions to help to achieve this.

In the White Paper on the environment, *This Common Inheritance*, it is proposed to transfer from the Secretary of State for Transport to the Secretary of State for the Environment responsibility for the designation of sites of historic wrecks in English waters under the Protection of Wrecks Act 1973. It also proposes that the Royal Commission on Historic Monuments should begin work on a central record of historic wrecks.

These are welcome first steps down the road recommended in "Heritage at Sea". However, support of the maritime heritage lags a long way behind that afforded to the protection of the national heritage on dry land, and it is to be hoped that the Department of the Environment and the RCHM will be given the resources to carry out their new responsibilities.

Yours sincerely,
R. O. MORRIS (Chairman, The Society for Nautical Research),
c/o National Maritime Museum,
Greenwich, SE10,
October 7.

Apple varieties at risk

From Ms Susan Clifford

Sir, Michael McCarthy's report of October 8 ("Glory of the British apple to rescue faded taste buds") makes no mention of a paper on tree preservation orders, recently issued by the Department of the Environment. This 53-page document devotes only one paragraph to fruit trees, which currently enjoy no protection if they are cultivated for fruit production growing or standing on land comprised in an orchard or garden.

No change to this is suggested, since it "would be likely to interfere both with the commercial management of large orchards and the normal pruning which householders undertake in their gardens". The paper adds that the "benefit in terms of amenity would be marginal".

Book prices and their regulation

From Mr Mark Brady

Sir, Implicit in Sir Simon Hornby's letter (October 17) supporting the net book agreement is the tendentious assumption that the demand for books is highly inelastic. My experience of book selling in the United States, where there is no resale price maintenance, suggests that demand is in fact quite elastic and that innovative marketing and price-cutting can sell a lot more books of all sorts. In this case a reduction in margins accompanied by a sufficient increase in the number of books sold would increase retailers' total profits.

In fact, as Sir Simon suggests, it is likely that booksellers' gross margins would increase. However, it does not follow that publishers would have to raise book prices in order to increase trade discounts to booksellers.

Competitive discounting by retailers would increase sales in response to which publishers would order longer print runs reducing their unit costs. In the United States it is the case both that book prices are overall appreciably lower than in the United Kingdom and that gross margins are markedly higher. In practice the Robinson-Patman Act, to which your correspondent Mr Clark (October 18) alludes, does not prevent booksellers who place sizeable orders with particular publishers from receiving considerably larger discounts.

Abolish the NBA and more booksellers in Britain would receive the sort of discounts that at present only W. H. Smith and possibly a few other large chains customarily obtain.

Yours faithfully,
MARK BRADY,
24 Harpersford Avenue,
Virginia Water, Surrey,
October 18.

From Mr Noel Hughes

Sir, Since the NBA was cleared by the Restrictive Practices Court in 1962, book prices have risen dramatically and higher retail margins have been a large component of that increase.

The publishers had, in the aftermath of the judgment, barely time to drain their champagne glasses when the booksellers were after them for bigger discounts. Their demands were disarmingly overt: the publishers had willed the end and they now had to fund the means. No bookseller, before 1962, could have shaded a retail price by 25 per cent. That Mr Terry Maher of Dillons can do it in 1990 reflects the more generous terms now in place. Mr Maher's discount has been reported as 45 per cent. That is not the top of the scale.

It is not only for this reason that I think the time has come for a fresh examination of the agree-

ment. But in spite of what Mr Ian Clark says (October 18) it should be examined by the Office of Fair Trading, not the Restrictive Practices Court.

Because of the nature of the latter court, and of Mr Justice Buckley's conduct of the case in 1962, the working of the NBA was never subject to rigorous and expert examination. That fact, and the consequences that have flowed from the court's decision require a fresh and different examination.

Yours truly,
NOEL HUGHES,
16 Mount Ararat Road,
Richmond, Surrey,
October 18.

From Mr Donald Clarke

Sir, Thirty years ago, in my home town in Wisconsin, there were no bookshops at all, but there were three full-service record shops, offering classical music, jazz, folk, country, pop or whatever one wanted; now there are none.

This is because major record labels and their distributors in the 1960s and 1970s decided to stop filling small orders from small record shops, forcing them to buy their stock from "one stops", or middle-men, where they had to pay more for them in some cases than the big discount chains were selling them for. Hence the sort of mom-'n'-pop neighbourhood shop where one might have been exposed to several kinds of music has disappeared completely.

The marketing and distribution of books and records is similar, and they are similarly valuable cultural artefacts, the wide availability of which is a mark of a civilised nation.

I think that price maintenance should be abolished, but that publishers, record companies and their distributors should be required to provide any number of items to any bona fide retailer at the same price.

Yours faithfully,
DONALD CLARKE,
Sycamore Barn, Station Road,
Yaxham,
Dereham, Norfolk,
October 15.

From Mr M. A. Weston

Sir, Sir Simon Hornby does protest too much. His argument is merely a defence of retaining inflated prices to protect profit. In the 1990s service and efficiency are the ways to create profit, not subsidize retailing. The specialists will always survive and indeed increase turnover.

Competition has come to us all, even the legal profession. Why not the book trade?

Yours faithfully,
M. A. WESTON,
Burton, Yeates, Westburys
(Solicitors),
38 St Martin's Lane, WC2,
October 17.

Roads and nature

From the President of the Royal Society for Nature Conservation

Sir, A recent report from our members in South-east England shows that over 350 sites of importance to nature conservation are threatened by the Government's road-building programme in nine counties.

One of the partnership members, the Hampshire and Isle of Wight trust, has been vigorously opposed to the M3 scheme around St Catherine's Hill (letter, October 10), not least because of the damage which will be done to its nature reserve over which the full range of downland orchids flourish and blue butterflies roam.

The trust is supporting the High Court action to reverse the minister's decision to go ahead with this scheme, both because it believes the EC environmental impact assessment directive was not adhered to and because the trust, as an interested party, was not kept in the picture regarding the full extent of the Department of Transport's proposals for the number of lanes intended for the by-pass.

We are becoming increasingly

concerned at the unrestrained increase in road building and the absence of an environmentally sensitive national transport policy.

Yours faithfully,
DUNSTAN ADAMS,
President,
Royal Society for Nature Conservation,
The Green, Witham Park,
Lincoln,
October 10.

From Mr T. C. H. Macafee

Sir, Today you publish an idyllic photograph showing Twyford Down, a viaduct, a cow and the three leading protesters against the completion of the M3.

Perhaps you could now publish another picture taken from just the other side of that viaduct, showing the constant long queues of traffic on the present Winchester by-pass which have gone on for many years harming the environment as a result of the delays caused by such protesters.

Yours faithfully,
T. C. H. MACAFEE,
The Croft,
Itchen Abbas,
Winchester,
Hampshire,
October 9.

Married priests

From Mr Gerard Noel

Sir, Faced with a chronic shortage of priests and a disastrous split of leading opinion on the subject, the Roman Catholic Church seems to be at a critical stage. The key question is celibacy, which has been discussed at the world Synod of Bishops in Rome. It was announced that two married men had been secretly ordained priests in Brazil on condition that they gave up sexual relations, a move to which in my opinion, the Pope must have given his (presumably reluctant) confirmation.

The optimistic view is that the

synod will now move boldly forward and enable marriage in the priesthood to become more than a mere grudging exception to the norm.

The decision, if correct, seems certain to upset both "traditionalists" and "progressives" in regard to the alleged incompatibility of sex with the sanctity of the priesthood.

Yours faithfully,
GERARD NOEL,
(Editorial Director),
Catholic Herald,
Herald House, Lambs Passage,
Bunhill Row, EC1,
October 18.

From Mr Ralph Hancock

Sir, The stressing of street names can be a vital way of avoiding chaos. I live in the Queen's Gate area of London. The streets around me are called Prince's Gate, Empress's Gate, Queen's Gate Place, Queen's Gate Gardens, Queen's Gate Terrace, Queen's Gate Mews, Queen's Gate Place Mews and pronounced in a muffled shriek Queensberry Place and Queensberry Mews.

Yours faithfully,
RALPH HANCOCK,
17 Queen's Gate Place, SW7.

From Mrs Thomasina Cowie

Sir, I am delighted to reassure Judge Mason that the word "street" can receive its proper stress and importance. Our address provides an excellent example.

Yours faithfully,
THOMASINA COWIE,
Street Farm, Street Lane,
South Brewham, Bruton, Somerset.

Place names put under stress

From Sir David Hunt

Sir, His Honour Peter Mason, QC, enquires (October 11) why when referring to, e.g., Oxford Street and Edgware Road we place the stress differently, on the first element and the second respectively. About 52 years ago, when the junior Fellow at Magdalen College, Oxford, I put the same question to C. T. Onions, another member of the senior common room and famous for editing the *Oxford English Dictionary*. He was, as always, ready with an explanation, which I suspect is still valid.

"Street" is a loan word in English, from Latin *stratum*. It was adopted by the Anglo-Saxon invaders to describe something new to them: the great Roman military roads. These seemed to them almost as much natural phenomena as the rivers, and since all streets and all rivers were much the same in essence they placed the stress on the name which differentiated them. River Thames or Watling Street.

By contrast a road or a lane was something made in their own time and possibly impermanent. A similar difference in stress is made when speaking of, e.g., the River Avon and the Avon and Kennel Canal.

Yours faithfully,
DAVID HUNT,
Old Place, Lindfield, West Sussex.

From Mr J. A. Walsh

Sir, Judge Mason cites 42nd Street and Pennsylvania Avenue in transatlantic support of his rules of emphasis, but I fear he is on shaky ground. Manhattan provides more exceptions than conformities. All the numbered avenues are pronounced with the stress on the prefix: thus, Fifth Avenue, Third Avenue etc., and even Park Avenue, not numbered. Madison Avenue seems to go either way, in my experience.

Yours faithfully,
J. A. WALSH,
30 Otways Lane,
Ashstead, Surrey.

From Mr G. C. Matthews

Sir, Something else about our description of thoroughfares puzzles me: what earns a road the right to the definite article? More particularly, why do some roads fail to make the grade?

I can see why we should say "The Fulham Road", on grounds of destination, and "The Portobello Road", on grounds of celebrity. But why not "The Farringdon Road" or "The Camden Hill Road"?

Pity the poor visitor! We Londoners wince at solecisms such as "We went to King's Road yesterday", but what is the rule? And why is it that both forms are sometimes correct, as with Gloucester Road (because of the Tube station)?

Yours faithfully,
GEOFFREY MATTHEWS,
78 Iffley Road, SW10.

From Mr Lucas Mellinger

Sir, The reason for stressing the name of the street, as in Fleet Street, is surely that the name distinguishes a particular street from all others; whereas in stressing a specific thoroughfare, as in Park Lane, we identify one from a number of others in the named area, such as Park Side, Park Road etc.

Yours faithfully,
LUCAS MELLINGER,
4 Kew Green, Richmond, Surrey.

From Mr Kenneth Morgan

Sir, When we migrated eight miles to Macclesfield 40 years ago my wife and I were amused and puzzled by the unfamiliar local pronunciation of its main shopping thoroughfare, Mill Street, so stressed, heavily. An example, it proved, of sound Cheshire common sense to distinguish the street from the older and once more important, Mill Lane near by.

Yours etc,
KENNETH MORGAN,
151 Overhill Road,
Dulwich, SE22.

From Mr John Keegan

Sir, Judge Mason will find that at this end of this village we stress Kilmington Street, to differentiate it from the other end, Kilmington Common — an exception which may prove his rule, if it is one, that the English always lay the stress the other way.

Street dwellers, by the way, believe that Common people are stuck-up. Is there anything in that for the judge to get his teeth into?

I am, etc.,
JOHN KEEGAN,
The Manor House, Kilmington,
Nr Warminster, Wiltshire.

From Mr Ralph Hancock

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South Brewham, Bruton, Somerset.



Hon Sir Robert Fellowes and

Royal engagements

Anniversaries

Memorial services

Marriage

Mr G.W. Pilkington
and Mrs J.D. Dingwall
The marriage took place yesterday, at Newbury, between Mr George Pilkington and Mrs Jennifer Dingwall, daughter of Mrs Edward Ryder.

Forthcoming marriages

Mr D.R.L.O. Harris
and **Miss E.M. Cumming**
The engagement is announced
between David, younger son of
Mr and Mrs F.B.O. Harris, of
Stoke Bishop, Bristol, and
Emma, elder daughter of
Lieutenant Colonel and Mrs
Alaistair Cumming, of North
Oker Somerset, and the British
Embassy, Warsaw

Mr I. Harris
and **Miss M.A. Beckley**
The engagement is announced
between Jeremy, son of the late
Mr and Mrs Alfred Harris, of
Eightham, London, and Michele
Anne, daughter of Mrs Robyn
Beckley and the late Mr John
Beckley, of Kalimna Park,
Victoria, Australia

Mr D.C. Sykes
and Miss M.D. Thurlley
Gwenda and Derek Thurlley of
Brouxbourne, have much
pleasure in announcing the
engagement of their daughter
Melinda Dawn to David Clive,
only son of Clare and Clive
Sykes, of Wrington, Avon.

Mr N.D. Williams
and Dr K.H. McCarthy
The engagement is announced
between Noel, elder son of
Lieutenant-Commander
Graham Williams and the late
Mrs Josephine Williams, of
Wentworth, West Sussex, and
Kathryn, younger daughter of
Group Captain and Mrs John
McCarthy, of Colesworthy,
Devon.

OBITUARIES

COMMANDER ALLON BACON

A high-contrast, black and white portrait of a man in a military uniform, likely a general, holding a cigar. The image is grainy and has a high-contrast, almost stencil-like quality.

garrisoning Norway heavily against the possibility of an allied invasion. As a result large numbers of useful troops were kept idle there throughout the war. It was the first time that the Royal Canadian Operations after Louis Mountbatten had taken over as head, an appointment which brought new vigour to the scope and daring of combined operation raids. Later Bacon was appointed to a new Admiralty division, where he set up, with Miss Anne Burton, later to be his second wife, and Miss Ene Shiers, a highly intelligent and knowledgeable civilian, a liaison operation between the OIC (Operation of Intelligence Centre) in the Admiralty and GCHQ. The unit also provided guidance

PATRICK KILVINGTON

In the ruins of post-war Germany he contracted tuberculosis and after two years in hospital was invalided from the service in 1948, emigrating to Australia and a kinder climate in 1951. There he resumed civilian life by cleaning cars. Then he became, in succession, farmer, advertiser, and finally a successful

Church services tomorrow

[illegible]

**MAJOR HENRY
GARNETT**

job, but in 1972, he was recruited initially as deputy chairman and later as chief executive of the Cancer Relief Society. During the next 14 years Garnett transformed the society's role and performance. He conceived and quickly developed a unique partnership with the National Health Service, which led initially to the establishment of a number of hospices and day centres. The cost was met by Cancer Relief, on the condition that the health service would take on the long-term financial responsibility.

Garnett and his team extended this concept to the establishment of some 500 educational posts to provide doctors and nurses with training in pain control and palliative care. Finally, in 1978, Garnett established the Macmillan Nursing Service. That, perhaps above all else, deserves to be his memorial. There are now nearly 800 of these expert and devoted nurses alleviating the suffering of cancer patients and the anxieties of their families, all paid for and funded for three years by Cancer Relief and later by the National Health Service.

He returned from the war to join Gillette Industries and, after working in the USA and Australia, rose to the chairmanship of Gillette England and later of Gillette Europe, the latter job being aborted when President Kennedy stopped US investment in European companies for a while. Here he was responsible for starting the Gillette Cup.

Thrice married, he leaves two sons and two daughters.

DR ABDO SALLAM

thority and later chairman of the Arab company for drug industries and medical appliances, he was in touch with similar projects in other Arab and Third World countries, including India and Iran.

Dr Sallam was a man of

ABDO Sallam devoted his life to improving health services for his people and was known as the "father" of the Egyptian pharmaceutical industry. In 1941 he left his post as a highly qualified orthopaedic surgeon in the military hospital, Alexandria, with a growing private practice, to organise tuberculosis care under the Ministry of Public Health. After the revolution of 1952, he became head of the National Rural Planning Council to further Nasser's plan for welfare centres in the villages, combining schools, clinics and social services, at a time when 80 per cent of the population was rural and 90 per cent of the services were urban. The first 200 centres were set up in 1954. He inspired young doctors to undertake this work.

wide international interests. He worked closely with the World Health Organisation, he had links with the Vatican, and he and others set up the 'Institute of the Holy Spirit' in Rome. He was a Catholic, Muslim and Coptic meeting monthly in each other's homes. From the 1940s on his life was influenced by Moral Re-Armament, convinced that medical and social conditions in Egypt could be affected only through individuals of integrity, practising high moral principles. He himself twice changed his career, setting aside lucrative posts for public service. His great concern was to provide the best of his knowledge to the young generation. He was twice awarded the highest order of merit by the Egyptian National Academy of Science Research and Technology.

In 1956 he took responsibility for the development of a pharmaceutical industry to ensure the availability of medicines and equipment. This need became urgent at the time of the Suez operation when supplies, for example of penicillin, did not get through. As chairman of the Medical Production Au-

In 1941 he married Dr Aida Lakany, one of the pioneer women scientists who qualified after the opening of Egyptian universities to women in the 1930s. She was professor of microbiology in Alexandria and they worked together for their people's health until her death in 1988. Their two daughters survive them.

Service dinners

RN, RM, WRNS and QARNNS, Naples
Vice-Admiral Sir Norman King presided at a Trafalgar night dinner given by Officers of the Royal Navy, Royal Marines, Women's Royal Naval Service and the Queen Alexandra's Royal Naval Nursing Service in the Allied Officers' Club, Lincoln R.H., Naples last night.
Mr. Malcolm Holding, Consul-General, was the guest of honour.

London Division, RNRR
The Lord Mayor and the Sheriffs attended the annual Trafalgar night dinner of the London Division, Royal Naval Reserve, held last night onboard HMS President. Commander J. McK. Ludgate presided and Major-General R.J. Ross, RM, proposed the toast to the "immortal admiral". Captain P.S. Albertson, commanding officer, received the guests.

RCT
Major-General C.E.G. Carrington, Director General of Transport and Movements, and Admiral Sir John Dore, Director General of the Royal Corps of Transport entered the Grand Ballroom of the Grosvenor Hotel to present Colonel James Compton,

Officers' Association held last night at the Oriental Club. General Sir Martin Farndale and Brigadier K.J. Davey, Brigadier J.C. Hargrave and Brigadier W.A. Mackenzie were the guests.

Royal Pioneer Corps
General Sir John Sibboun, Colonel Commandant of the Royal Pioneer Corps, presided at a dinner held last night at Simpson's, Backs, Northampton. Major-General G.W. Field was the guest.

RAF Education Officers
Air Chief Marshal Sir Peter Harding, Chief of the Air Staff, was the principal guest at the annual dinner of the RAF Education Officers' Association held last night at RAF Newton. Air Commodore J.F. Jarvis, Director of Training (Support and Education), presided. Major-General A. Kinvig, Director-General of Education, A.M. Morrice, Director of Naval Manning and Training (Instructor), Wing Commander C. Garner and Mr T.D. Hills, Director of the Tri-Service Reserves' Organisation, were among the guests.

Royal College of Organists

Stephen Cleobury has been elected President of the College in succession to Martin Neill, who becomes a Vice-President.

Middle Temple

Professor Margaret Tur Warwick has been elected Honorary Master of the Bench. The following have been elected Masters of the Bench: Judge Lymbery, QC, A.B. Suckling, QC, Diana Cotton, QC, and...

Weekend birthdays

TODAY: Sir James Ackers, chairman, West Midlands Regional Health Authority. 55: Mr. James Boggis-Rolle, former deputy secretary. Lord Chancellor's Office. 79: Sir Edwin Holland, diplomat. 68: the Right Rev Stanley Booth-Clibborn, bishop of Manchester. 66: Major-General T. Brodie. 87: Mr. Ray Buckton, trades unionist. 84: Mr Alfredo Campoli, violinist. 84: the Right Rev Dr H.J. Carpenter, former Bishop of Oxford. 89: Mr Chris Cowdrey, cricketer. 33: Professor Sir Bernard Katz, physicist. 67: Mr Lawrence Daly, trades unionist. 66: Professor Sir Douglas Hague, former chairman, Economic and Social Research Council. 64: Mr Eddie

blacken, showjumper, 41; Judge
 Feindre McKinney, 62; Mr J.G.
 Filme Home, Lord Lieutenant
 of Dumfries and Galloway, 74;
 Lord Montagu de Beaulieu, 64;
 Sir Roger Ormrod, former Lord
 Justice of Appeal, 79; Mr Ian
 B. Saul, vice-chancellor, York
 University, 66; Sir William
 Chadland, chartered accountant,
 68; Sir Alexander Stirling, dip-
 lomat, 66; the Hon. Emma
 Tennant, writer, 53; Sir Ian
 Hethcote, chairman, Thames
 television, 68; Mr Timothy
 West, actor, 56.

TOMORROW: Mr Malcolm
 Arnold, composer, 69; Mr Geoff-
 rey Boycott, cricketer, 50; Lord
 Grand, 67; Mr Norman Clarke,

Church news

[illegible][illegible]

Night life in the fast lanes

Tenpin bowling is making a spectacular comeback – in a civilised way no parent need fear, Callum Murray reports. Gone are the dubious, grimy alleys, replaced by chromium palaces of sporting pleasure

Standing at a main traffic intersection, next to the bus, underground and railway stations at Finsbury Park, in north London, is Rowans 24-lane bowling centre. The area has a bad reputation – you would not want to hang about here for too long on your own on a Saturday night – but inside the pleasant, low, white-painted and gabled Edwardian building, with its somewhat incongruous blue neon signs, the atmosphere is friendly and relaxed.

Opening hours at Rowans are 10am to 4am the next morning on weekdays, and 9am to 6am, Friday to Sunday. People often wait for four hours for a lane. The bar is open until 11pm, yet in the course of a long Saturday evening's observation there was no hint of trouble.

There is clearly a social phenomenon in progress here. Two years ago, there were about 70 tenpin bowling centres in the country. Now there are 140. This is what the book *Play the Game: Tenpin Bowling*, endorsed by the British Tenpin Bowling Association (BTBA), calls the "second boom" in bowling. It is a boom that seems to have come out of nowhere.

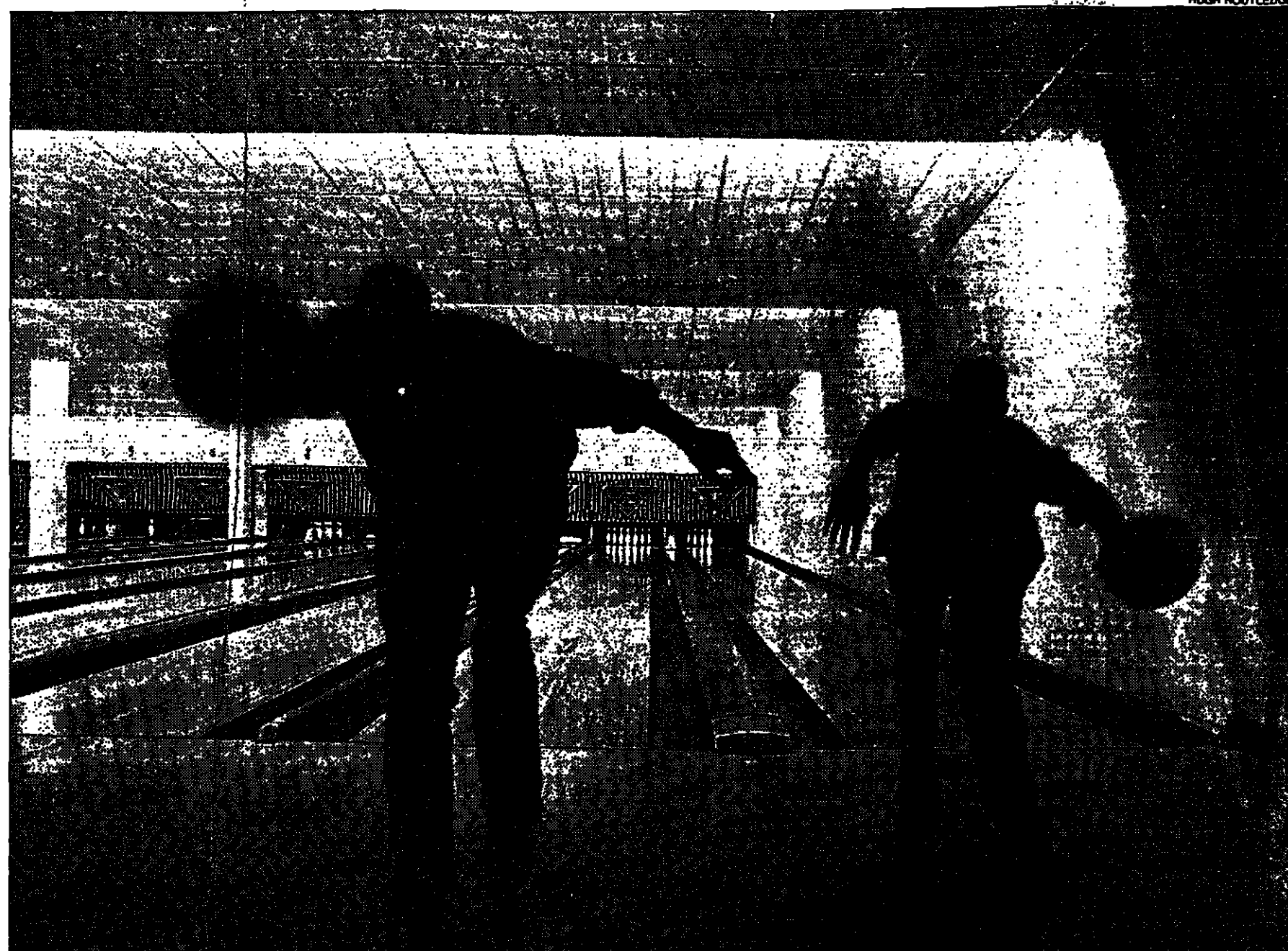
Of course, bowling has a long history. The game originated in Germany in the third or fourth century and was introduced into America in the 17th century as ninepin bowling. By the mid 19th century, however, it had become so infiltrated by racketeers that many states banned it, beginning

with Connecticut in 1841. To circumvent the ban, another pin was added and the game became tenpin bowling as it is played now. The first public bowling alley in this country opened at Stamford Hill in London in 1960 and, by the mid Sixties, at the peak of the initial boom, there were 125 alleys around the country.

There is some disagreement about the causes of the decline that followed. Chris Winter, the general secretary of the BTBA, suggests that alleys built on the edge of towns were often in prime development locations so, when the property boom came, their owners were made offers they could not refuse. Other sites became bingo halls.

In the Seventies, bowling seemed to be a craze that had run its course. But now the trend has been reversed again. The largest bowling centre in the country is the Nottingham Bowl, which has 48 lanes. More typical of the new generation, however, is Rowans, which was a bingo hall until three years ago when it was converted first into a snooker club, and then extended to form a bowling centre. The word "alley" is no longer used – it is, according to Mr Winter, too suggestive of the dismal establishments that hastened the decline of bowling first time around.

A few of the original alleys survived the decline. Stratham Megabowl (36 lanes), in south London, was totally refurbished a year or so ago. Where Rowans relies on subdued lighting to create



Change of pace: few bowling alleys survived the property developers' onslaught of the Sixties, but Rowans' 24-lane tenpin centre has become a glittering palace of family entertainment

a relaxed atmosphere, the Megabowl has been aggressively "designed" for the second boom; from the apsidal, chromium-plated island bar to the signed photographs on the wall: "Lots of love, Megabowl. Best wishes, Little Richard."

As far as facilities go, the two are almost identical – bar, fast food (Rowans scores over the Megabowl with scampi in a basket), electronic games machines, satellite television showing MTV... Rowans has pool tables, but the Megabowl counters with some-

thing of a coup: "Minibowl", a soft play area for young children.

All of these measures are designed to promote bowling as an all-round evening's entertainment to which you can take the family. In fact, at the Megabowl the average age is probably mid-to-late twenties. At Rowans, however, two or three gangs of 13 and 14-year-olds, roaming about in their flappy tracksuit trousers and huge trainers, drag the average age down to late teens or early twenties. People of this age could be out engaging in profitable

juvenile crime, but at Rowans, one boy, smiling politely, prefers to hold a door open for another, and one of the friendly, ordinary-sized security men in his non-threatening T-shirt says to a youth: "Excuse me, can you have your drink on the bar behind the lanes, please." "Sorry, I keep forgetting," replies the youth. It is like being in a Cliff Richard film.

Four girls and two boys sit waiting to bowl. They come once a week, or whenever they have the money. "All that Sixties stuff is coming back in," says one of the

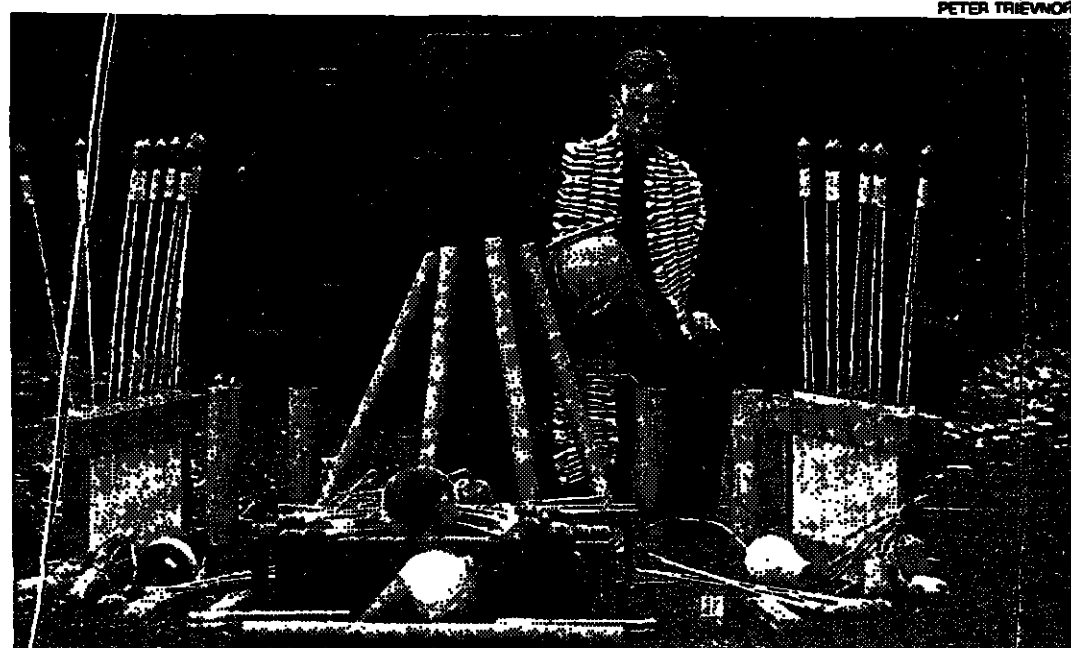
girls. "It's good for young people who can't get into the clubs."

Their turn comes up at last, and they go through the ritual of exchanging their shoes for coloured bowling shoes. Then they start bowling. The noise level rises. One of the girls deliberately shouts out when the others bowl, trying to put them off. This seems to be quite acceptable behaviour. "Do your parents mind you coming here?" I ask her, in between bowls. "They don't know. They think I'm at orchestra practice." The girls are in their A-

level year at a north London convent school.

By 11pm their game is finished and they are on their way home. The place begins to fill up with a different sort of customer, balding men in thin, black polo-neck shirts. These are the serious bowlers. By the time their games end, the convent girls will have been in bed for hours. So long as the racketeers stay away, the girls' parents should not worry. They will be sleeping the sleep of the innocent.

● *Play the Game: Tenpin Bowling* (Ward Lock, £3.99).



Set for an expensive big bang: Andrew Joliffe, who started his own fireworks display business at the age of 19

Man with a burning urge to sparkle

Help: Andrew Joliffe, fireworks organiser

WANT to make your bonfire night party, or any other festivity, go with a bang? You will need at least £1,000 to hire one of the new breed of professional "designer pyrotechnicians" for a decent show in your garden – and a minimum of 40 feet square of outside space.

Alternatively, you could blow £1,000 on a single 24in star shell that will burst at 1,000ft, says Andrew Joliffe of Fox Fireworks, who designed the display for the Albert Memorial Restoration Appeal and co-operated with Andrew Smiley, of Shell Shock, on the celebration of the Thames Barrier's 100th lifting.

Unlike the Suffolk-based Shell Shock, which has a minimum charge of £2,000 and admits it is primarily chasing the corporate market, Fox Fireworks will have a crack at any sort of private party,

and put your lover's face, or corporate logo, up in lights.

The company got off the ground when Mr Joliffe, aged 29, who has been fascinated by fireworks since he was a child, gave his parents a sparkling anniversary celebration in 1980.

Your £1,000 display would take about three hours to set up by a team of professionals in black protective clothing – at least one of whom would remain until the end of the party – and "your lawn might get torn up a bit", Mr Joliffe admits.

The local fire brigade, police and the Civil Aviation Authority would be alerted for you. Mr Joliffe also advises notifying your neighbours and any nearby farmers and hospitals.

If you wanted a portrait of your lover's face you would blow £800 immediately on that – or almost any other special commission. "Portraits are not cheap," Mr Joliffe says, "but we are quite happy to do them and design them together with a framer who makes them up for us on a cucumber frame or trellis."

The £1,000 would not include a bonfire, nor do Mr Joliffe's teams build them, although they "know a man who does", and will refer you, if you insist – as they will to party planners and other organisations with which they work regularly.

"We don't recommend having bonfires near fireworks," Mr Joliffe says, "because no matter how well bonfires are constructed

there's always a risk that a stray spark might set off a firework – even though we take great precautions to guard against that."

"Should you wish to hold your firework party on the Thames," Mr Joliffe says, "we have to have it closed to shipping. That will cost you at least £4,500, which includes barge hire and £1,000 worth of fireworks."

The wonderful thing about hiring a professional pyrotechnician is that you should not need to worry about either safety or spectacle. Companies such as Fox pay high insurance premiums to cover the safety of onlookers – "We have public liability of £1 million," says Mr Joliffe, "and are rigorous about observing safety precautions. Everything we use has to be purchased with a licence."

Mr Joliffe trained with the Rev Ron Lancaster, the doyen of contemporary British pyrotechnicians, but considers he has broadened his horizons since then. "We are young bloods who want to do a bit more 'design' than has been evident in most firework displays of the past," he says. He is not sure precisely when fireworks originated, but attributes them to ancient China; he is often called on to participate in traditional Chinese New Year celebrations.

Fireworks are catching on like wildfire for birthday parties and weddings, and Fox has also done hunt balls and advertising agency bashes and is working on a European Disneyland project for 1992. Mr Joliffe, who claims to have "an explosive personality and a short fuse when it comes to planning these things absolutely precisely", is also, of course, planning a display for his thirtieth birthday.

VICTORIA MCKEE

● Further information from Fox Fireworks (071-243 0981, or mobile phone 0860 427206).

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SELL IT THROUGH
THE TIMES



Dazzling: Mr Joliffe provides anything from sparklers to 24in star shells costing £1,000

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IBERIA IB
WARM TO THE EXPERIENCE.

BRENDAN Dobbin knows a thing or two about beer. He has set up breweries in the United States, China, New Zealand and Europe. Now he has settled in Manchester, selling his own brand of Chinese beer, and has plans to brew in the Soviet Union and Bulgaria.

Originally from Belfast, Mr Dobbin went into the beer business after acquiring a master's degree in brewing at Heriot-Watt University, Edinburgh, in 1983. "That year I was awarded the Breweries Society of Scotland prize, which came with the enormous sum of £10 and a letter from the society advising me to use the cash to buy books and study materials," he says. "I framed the letter and spent the money on 14 pints of Belhaven Heavy."

Now Mr Dobbin's expertise as a brewing consultant is in demand by clients all over the world, including governments. He oversees the setting up of breweries, from equipment design to the brewing process and staff training, which is not always simple.

In 1986 he was invited by the Chinese government to set up English brewing operations in Tianjin and Changsha. "It was the first British beer to be brewed in China, although they do know a bit about it because they have 600 breweries of their own," says Mr Dobbin, who spent four months on the project.

"I was asked to lecture to leading Chinese brewers, and that was no problem. However, getting the actual beer flowing was a nightmare. Several local companies were involved, all supposedly specialists in technical skills, but constant squabbling and back-biting among them meant that nothing got done. The workers were not really bothered either — they were paid whether anything

Pint of eastern order

An Irishman, who learnt about beer in Scotland, tells why he brews Chinese beer in England

got done or not. Finally, I was so exasperated I threatened to take the next flight out if I didn't get some co-operation. That seemed to do the trick. Now the breweries are very successful."

The project also gave Mr Dobbin a taste for Chinese lager. "Chinese hops smell and taste quite different from ours, but when I got back here the imported Chinese beer I bought wasn't so good. Then I realised it was usually stale. It takes three months to get here by boat, then becomes tied up in warehouses and distribution. Beer should be drunk soon after it's made."

So this month Mr Dobbin has launched his Yellow Mountain beer for national distribution. "Setting up the brew has taken a while," he says. "It has taken a year to negotiate a steady supply of Chinese hops. Chinese people who have tried the new drink seem to like it. Chinese lager has a lemony taste and is stronger than its UK equivalent, although the

price in a Chinese restaurant should be about the same as the home-grown product."

Two years ago, with a handful of staff, he set up the West Coast Brewing Company on a council housing estate at Chorlton on Medlock, Manchester. His base is the King's Arms pub, which attracts beer buffs anxious to sample the 13 brands of mild, bitter, lager and stout, marketed mainly under the North County and Coaster names.

Next summer Mr Dobbin hopes to start brewing in the Soviet Union, the first Briton to do so, he believes. "We signed an agreement after I took a trip to Kiev in the Ukraine as a guest of the Soviet Union's biggest brewery. They tasted samples and agreed we would be suitable to operate a brewery in Kiev's prime tourist location."

"Some Russian beer is of world standard, but it is mainly for export — it is highly rated by experts in this country. The ordinary beer there is usually not very good. It is supposed to be lager, but it's brown and cloudy. I think they brew it with potatoes. It has a lingering after-taste of stale hops. There's a sort of Russian Camra (Campaign for Real Ale), which complains furiously, but they don't seem to get very far. If they made me minister of beer I'd soon put things right," he adds.

Whatever the brew, an essential requirement, says Mr Dobbin, is that it should have a noticeable hops flavour with a background tang of prime malted grains. Mr Dobbin does not over-indulge in his own product. "I might get through a couple of pints of beer a day," he says. "You can drink beer without getting out of your head."

BERNARD SILK



Head man: Brendan Dobbin (left), who has started his own brewery, and restaurateur, Stephen Kuk

THIS WEEKEND

● Exhibition of historic garden tools. Home include a lawnmower, patented in 1830, a glass cucumber straightener, and a set of three brass walking-stick weedkillers stamped "the Whycombe eradicator".
The Museum of Garden History, the Tradesmen's Trust, St Mary-at-Lambeth, Lambeth Palace Road, London SE1. Today until Nov 25. Further information (071-261 1891).
● Half-term at the RAF Museum. Visitors may sit in the cockpits of three combat aircraft, including an F3 Tomcat, and the Super-X night simulator. Tomorrow there is a Mercedes owners' club rally.

Events in town

and from next Thursday to Saturday Sotheby's is holding a classic car auction.
RAI Museum, Hendon, London NW9 (081-205 2266). Today until Oct 27, daily 10am-6pm.
● Film show: The RSPB's programme of three new films, *Seasick*, *Red Kite Success Story*, *The Year of the Stork*, and *Home from the Sea — the Story of Sea Birds*.
Usher Hall, Lothian Road, Edinburgh (031-226 1155). Today 2.30pm, £2.50, child £1.50.
● Autumn boat jubilee: Largest event of its kind in the southeast.
The Historic Dockyard, Chatham, Kent (0634 612551).

Tomorrow 10am-6pm, £2.50, child £1.50.

● Southern road race classic and national championships: Biggest 10km road races in East Anglia, also children's races. South Church Park, Southend-on-Sea, Essex. Tomorrow from 12.30pm, free.
● Sheepdog nursery and wildlife trails: Opportunity to spot potential champions. East of England Agricultural Society Showground, Peterborough (0733 234451). Today, 9.30am into afternoon, free.
● British Puppet and Model Theatre Guild annual performance: Puppet shows for young children and adults.
Guildhall Crypt, King Street, London EC2. Today 2.30pm, free.
● Junior London film festival: Wide range of films for children. National Film Theatre, South Bank, London SE1. Today until Oct 28. Details from the box office (071-926 3232).
● Half-term in Cardiff: Craft demonstrations, workshops, talks, music and drama and a competition.
National Museum of Wales, Main Building, Cathay's Park, Cardiff. Today until Oct 27. Further information (0222 555105).

NEXT WEEK

● The Cotswolds antiques fair: Free authentication and valuation service for pottery and porcelain provided by the Antiques Roadshow ceramics expert Henry Sandon.
Five Mile Pump Rooms, Cheltenham, Gloucestershire. Wed 2-6pm, Thurs 11am-6pm, Fri 11am-6pm, Sat 11am-6pm, £3 including catalogue.
● London woodworker show: Display of woodcraft, from hand-made toys to furniture. Demonstrations by craftsmen.
Alexandra Palace, Wood Green, London N22 (081-362 1121). Thurs-Sat 10am-6pm, Sun 10am-6pm, £4, child £1.50.
● An evening of cartoons and rockabilly: Launch of the book *Turn Over a New Leaf*, a collection of cartoons by leading cartoonists which takes a light-hearted look at environmental concerns. Some originals will be auctioned, others on sale in the gallery.
Mall Galleries, Carlton House Terrace, London SW1. Thurs 6-8pm, tickets £10 available in advance (071-378 5247).
● Kew winter lectures: Six lectures with the theme "Views of Kew". The first on Friday ("The Greatest Glasshouse") by Sue Minter.
Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew, Richmond, Surrey (081-940 1171). Tickets from the Kew Shop or by post. Individual tickets £2, series £7.0.
● Mills Observatory open night: First in a series on the last Friday of every month. See Saturn through the large telescope, hear about the night sky in November, and see telescopic views of the moon.
Mills Observatory, Balguy Park, Dundee. Fri 6pm.

JUDY FROSHAUG

Rooms within rooms are fast becoming child's play

Assets

Children's furniture is too often decorative rather than functional. Scaled-down chairs and tables, stencilled with bears or trains, seem to be the limit of some manufacturers' imaginations. Much furniture has little bearing on the needs of a mother trying to combine a working life with bringing up children. Now, however, some enterprising women have come up with solutions.

Peggy Prendeville, an interior designer working from home, was determined to keep Isolde, her first baby, with her as much as possible throughout the day, so she designed a working area which doubles as a playpen in which her daughter, now aged 15 months, can play safely within a few feet of her mother's draughtsman's table.

"My solution was to make a room within a room, covering 80 sq ft, open at the top and varying between 3ft and 5ft tall. It had to be an attractive part of our large sitting room and not look too functional, nor too box-like."

The seven sides of the roofless pen are hinged so the shape can be changed and, if necessary, taken apart for storage. It has five differently shaped windows. The top edges are stepped and interrupted by domes and triangles to mimic a city skyline. The walls are painted in colours and patterns to echo the Mies van der Rohe's chair in the sitting room and to complement two polychrome sofas that Ms Prendeville designed.

Inside the playpen, which is made of medium-density fibre-board, shelving adds stability near the entrance and provides storage for some of Isolde's toys. Ms Prendeville believes the playpen will stimulate her daughter's imaginative play for years to come. "When she is older and does not require constant watching, I may retreat to my original workroom upstairs and leave the pen to her exclusively."

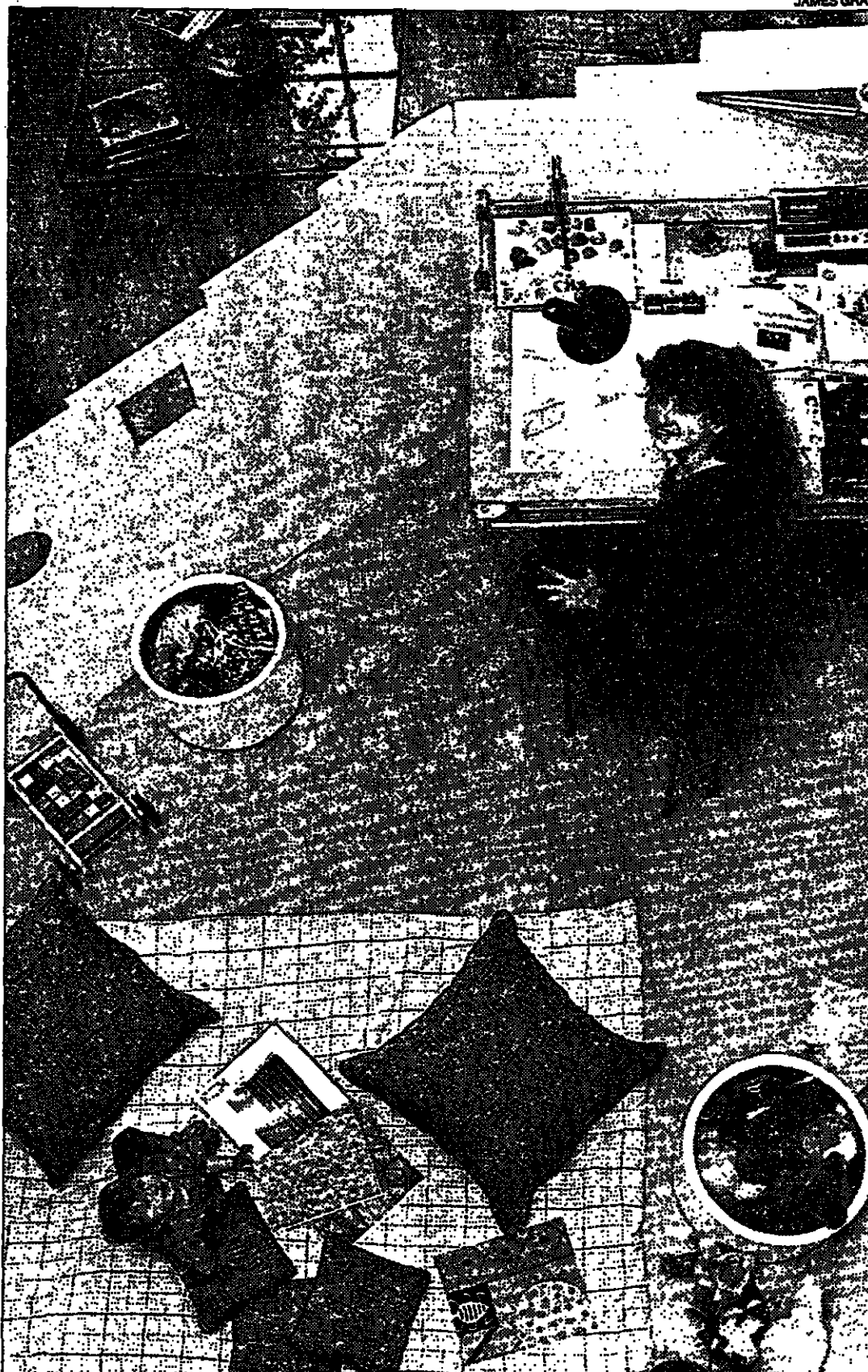
Ms Prendeville will design similar versions to fit any sized room and can arrange to have these built for families in London and the Home Counties. Her design fee is £30 an hour and the cost of making the playpen depends on the size and decoration required. As a guide, her own pen cost about £1,500 to build.

Two other mothers living in London, Jo Hardy, a part-time teacher, and Karen McCall, a journalist, have spent the past year developing their "Dream Castles" — imaginative children's furniture which blends practicality with play value.

There are three basic units, all about 6ft tall at the highest points, with a wide choice of add-ons. Avalon, a wall-fitted unit, is designed for smaller rooms, and Tintagel is a larger, built-in version. Camelot, a free-standing castle, needs more floor-space but will fit happily in an empty room 12ft by 12ft and combines all the furniture needed in a single unit.

Various combinations of interchangeable units are possible; for example, a cot or single bed, bunk beds, desk, cupboard with hanging rail or pull-out wire baskets, or a bookcase with a moving portaculis facade. The turrets offer open or closed storage space and a play platform, above the beds, can be reached by ladder. The castles are made of medium-density fibre-board sprayed with non-toxic, washable paint in a range of colours and finishes. British regulations regarding height of bunk beds and flammability of mattresses have been met, and they are suitable for use from birth until early teenage years.

The castles score as space-saving devices which also fire youthful imaginations. "Often children have to play in their bedrooms where space is limited," Ms McCall says, "so we have combined in one unit sufficient storage for clothes and shoes, books and toys, while offering



Room with a view: Peggy Prendeville, an interior designer, and her daughter in their work and play area

children their own large-scale toy to clamber over and play with.

"Children's furniture is usually very boring," Ms Hardy adds. "That's because an adult's idea of it is generally just a mini version of their own. Our research with a number of children showed they were excited by the different heights provided by the unit and the fact that they could climb over it, which is not normally allowed."

Dream Castles, which comprise all the furniture needed for a child's room, cost between £1,400 and £2,000, depending on the combination of units. They are made to order and fitted free in London, and at extra cost elsewhere.

Fun furniture for children at Harrods, London, includes a "jungle" bunk bed with a ladder resembling a creeper, and hand-painted duvets depicting a jungle scene. The bed is made to order at £1,950. Other furnishings include a double-decker bunk bed, £1,895; a red telephone box wardrobe, £850; and a colourful hand-painted sea-chest for storing toys, about £600.

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NICOLE SWENGLEY

● Peggy Prendeville, 10 Colman's Court, 45 Morris Road, London E14 6NQ (071-515 5134).
● Karen McCall, 20 Montpellier Grove, London NW5 2XD (071-284 3128).
● Harrods, Knightsbridge, London SW1 (071-730 1234).

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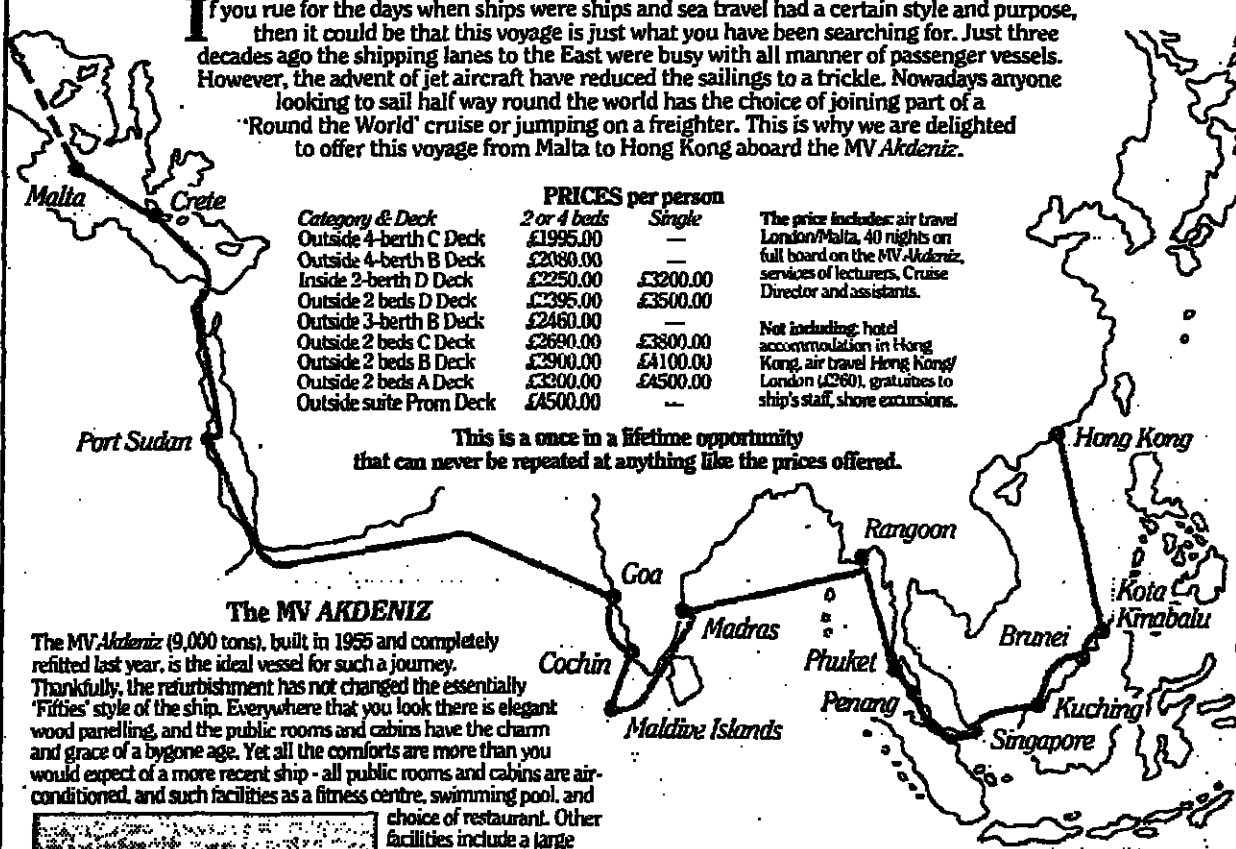


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Deafened by the peace of the country

How many noises grow in an English country garden? Sally Brompton reports

Refugees from the uproar of urban life are discovering that there is more to country sounds than bird song. Their idealistic dreams of rural peace are shattered daily by a variety of aggressive country noises, some traditional, some imported by the city exiles themselves.

"We are getting complaints from people who think they are going to a Shangri-La, but with all the tractors, corn-driers, audible birdsong and clay pigeon shoots, they find that it is not much different from the city," says John Connell, a Kent stockbroker and the chairman and founder of the 30-year-old Noise Abatement Society (NAS).

The society, which lists the introduction of rubber dustbin lids and plastic milk crates among its achievements in its battle to keep things as quiet as possible, is fighting to stop more recent rural sounds. Clay pigeon shoots, for example, can cause 10,000 explosions a day, audible two miles away, according to Mr Connell.

He is struggling to persuade Britain's 840,000 clay pigeon marksmen to swap their shotguns loaded with lead pellets for double-barrelled laser shotguns which fire an infra-red beam at a flying plastic target and register a hit or miss on an electronic scoreboard. "The problem is that the shooters appear to get some thrill out of the noise," he says.

The NAS also receives complaints from disillusioned country dwellers about noise from low-flying aircraft ("as low as 100ft, and sometimes flying beyond the speed of sound"), model aircraft, motor cycle scrambles, night-time motor rallies, kennels, quarries and even church bells.

"There are two ways of dealing with bells," Mr Connell says. "One is by blocking up the louvers so the noise doesn't escape. The other is by putting velvet gloves on the clappers. The manufacturers are now doing this, but we still get complaints. Vicars defend their bells like a mother defending her baby."

The Rev Peter Sear, vicar of St Mary's Church in Thatcham, Berkshire, which has an annual population turnover of 25 per cent, believes that "anyone who buys a house next door to a church must expect that the bells will be rung". St Mary's has had shuttered

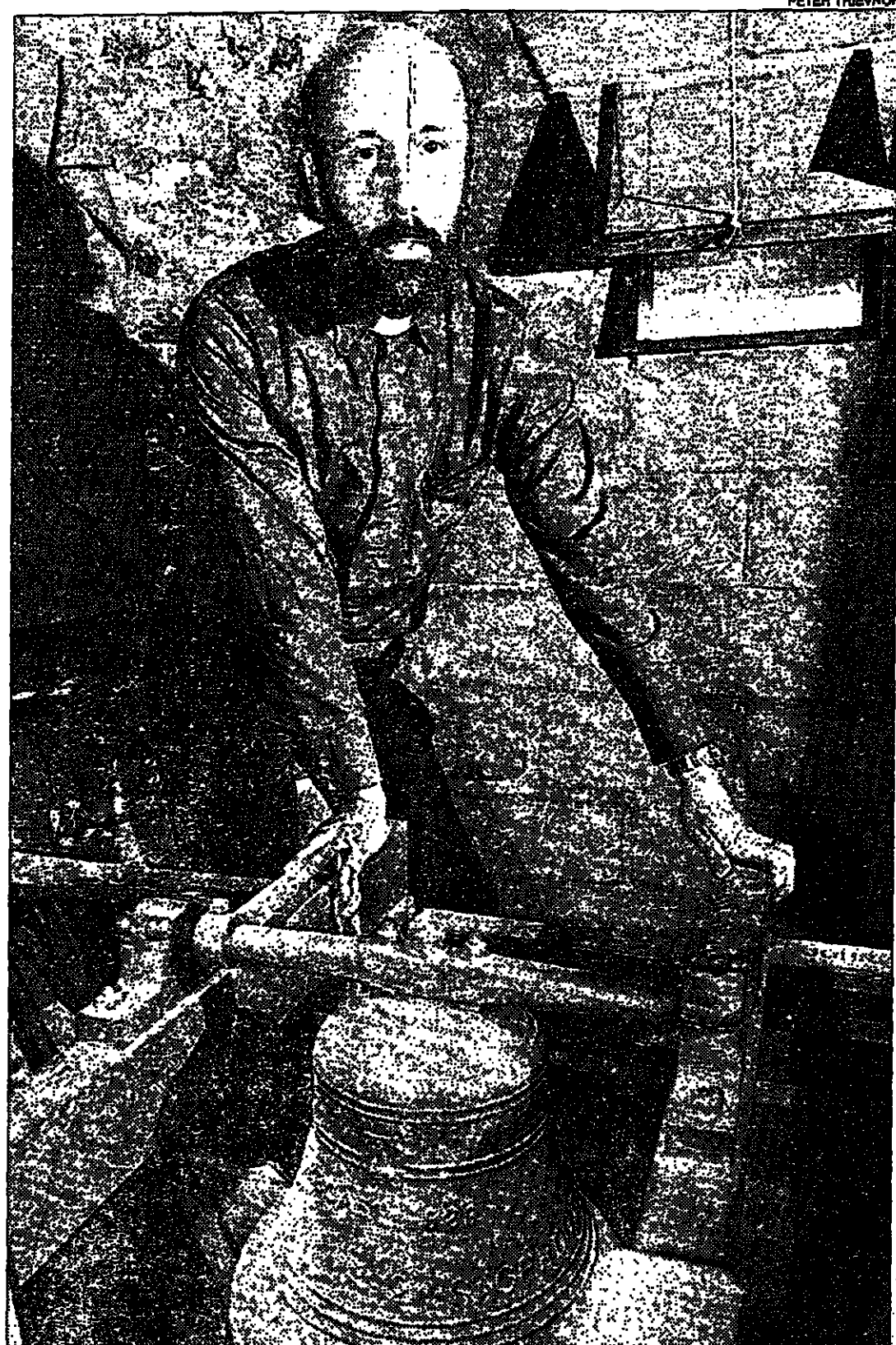
louvers fitted since 1983 to protect the 22,000 residents from the bellingers' weekly practice. But the 400-year-old bells still ring out on Sunday mornings and for Saturday weddings, and can be heard, according to Mr Sear, two and a half miles away. "I do feel that the church has a responsibility to make sure that the people living nearby are not subjected to incessant noise," he says. "While church bells are, to some people, music to the ear, to others they're a cacophony."

Cockerels are another subject for complaint by those who resent their sleep being interrupted at 4am. The NAS has a ready solution. "Cockerels have to raise their heads to be able to crow," Mr Connell says. "The answer is to put them in a low-roofed cage so they can't raise their heads." Anticipating accusations of cruelty, he says: "Our job is to protect people. There are other societies protecting animals and birds."

Audible birdsong, which can let off four piercing bangs a minute and can be heard up to three miles away, also arouses bitterness among those who live within earshot. Christopher Bennett, aged 47, a computer consultant, moved out of his 16th century cottage near Newmarket, in Suffolk, primarily because of the birdsong. "We got about two months off in the autumn, but otherwise there was no let-up," he says. "In the summer they would start at three in the morning and continue until about 10pm."

Now he lives in the heart of the East Anglian market town of Saffron Walden, but he is still woken on summer mornings by the birdsong in the fields around the town. Three years ago Mr Bennett founded the Birdsong Anti-Nuisance Group (Bang) with Suzy Gale, the wife of Roger Gale, the Conservative MP for Thanet North. Bang was formed after Mrs Gale's letter on the subject to a national newspaper resulted in 400 letters from fellow sufferers.

The anti-birdsongers' indignation is heightened by their claim that the machines are ineffective. The group is lobbying for legal curbs, and has sent the environment department four pages of amendments to the government's proposed code of practice on noise



Going like the clappers: not everyone loves the Rev Peter Sear's 400-year-old church bells in Berkshire

from audible birdsong under the Control of Pollution Act. While welcoming such a code, Bang complains that the draft "seems to have been written from the standpoint of making life easy for the farmer, rather than tolerable for the country dweller". According to Mr Connell, justice is regularly thwarted by the fact that many magistrates and local council members are farmers themselves, or have friends who are farmers.

At the sharp end of all the extremes of rural noise are the local environmental health officers who investigate complaints and instigate legal action if necessary. "Noise issues are really a

question of what individuals are used to," says Graham Jukes, the under secretary of the Institute of Environmental Health Officers, which has 7,500 members. One of Mr Jukes's current complaints came from a woman involved in a barn conversion who was concerned about the noise from a neighbouring flock of sheep. "The problem is that if you have been brought up in the country, you're used to the sorts of noises that occur, and very often complaints don't arise until you get people who are not used to living in rural settings," he says. The environmental protection bill passing through the House of

Lords, will ensure that local authorities take all reasonable steps to deal with noise nuisance.

Tim Brown, the information officer of the National Society for Clean Air, which has a national noise committee, cites the increasing number of helicopters landing in private paddocks and back gardens as "a growing source of noise nuisance in the countryside around London".

Mr Brown recognises the difficulties of assessing noise objectively. "How do you decide if a barking dog is a nuisance? I'd like to see a survey done among environmental health officers who own and don't own dogs."

Feather report

Small part of my autumn almanac

THIS is the perfect time of the year for impressing people with your knowledge of birdsong. Listen to any sudden, sad but glorious burst of song, and remark: "That robin is in fine voice."

You will be right at least 19 times in 20. The ear-bewildering cacophonies of the spring are a thing of the past: this is autumn and the time of the robin. And the robin is the only serious singer of this sad season.

In spring, the robin is beaten for volume, effort, vim and vigour. In the average garden, the song thrush steals the show: the loud, repeated phrases are overbearing and insistent. The blackbird's laid-back whistling sets this off to perfection. Wrens never shut up (how can so small a body make so great a din?), chaffinches babble away and willow warblers throw in their own lovely scraps of song.

The robin, in contrast to this annual embarrassment of riches, is thin-voiced, almost apologetic sounding. It takes something to make a robin seem apologetic, but that is the label of spring for you.

Birds sing to attract mates, and to establish a territory. The best singers among nightingales, for example, are the most successful at finding mates. But once any songbird pair has chicks on the nest, there is a sudden silence. Some breeds may go round twice, and breed again: but others have shut up for good long before the summer starts.

Then comes the post-breeding moult, when most birds skulk about and keep out of trouble. The last thing they are going to do is attract attention to themselves by singing for that, after all, is exactly the biological function of birdsong.

Calls are a different matter: laconic, often monosyllabic, intended for contact or for warning. But song — the extended stuff with all the posuring and the twiddly bits — means nothing less than, "Look at me!"

And when they no longer need to proclaim their territory, they simply fall silent. By this time of year, most of the warblers have migrated. Other birds have given up holding territories, and form flocks. They have nothing to sing

for. Not so robins. They need to establish and maintain a winter territory to feed in. They maintain its integrity through song. Thus October is the time for robin song. It is different to the song of spring. More sad, if I may anthropomorphise, more plaintive and more wistful. It has long, soft notes that die away. This is a lovely sound: the more so for being almost the only song of the season: a reminder of spring in the dying year.

The world seems full of robins right now. One sings, another answers, and a third intervenes. They are everywhere. Down at Minsmere bird reserve in Suffolk, you cannot bang a brick right now without hitting a singing robin. There is a wild plum tree in the car park: last week I watched four robins all trying to claim this little honeypot of a food supply for their very own.

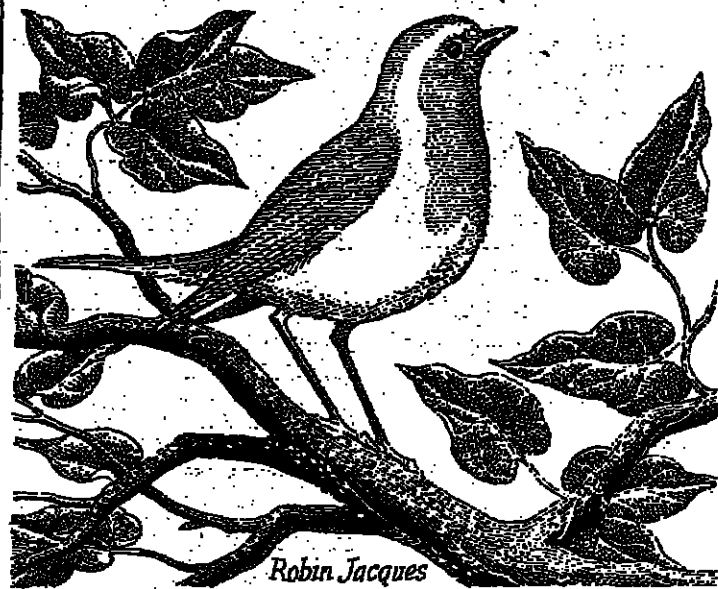
We are in the middle of a robin glut. Two mild winters have seen to that. Normally, winter kills 90 per cent and more of any year's crop of nestlings. This is not a thing to mourn about: it is simply the birds' reproductive strategy. More young are produced than can survive. That is the essence of Darwinism: it is one of the principles of life.

BUT the freakishly warm winters have given robins an unexpected success and that has made this one of the most unusual Octobers of living memory.

Robins seem to have gained a bad reputation of late. The image of the friendly robin redbreast has been supplanted by that of the belligerent, bullying monster. Someone described the robin as, "The Adolf Hitler of the bird world".

All this takes the pleasures of autumorphomorphism rather far. The birds are territorial, and interact with a lot of hooshing each other off plum trees and bird tables. But the main manifestation of this Hitler-like preoccupation with territory is that lovely song, the October song that is one of the loveliest things one could wish to hear. If he is actually singing "Robin über alles", that's all right by me.

SIMON BARNES



Sing a song of territory: we are in the middle of an October robin glut

Breeding

Cheeky pickpockets well worth watching

ANYONE with a sense of the Disneyesque could hardly resist the appeal of a tumbling troupe of ruby-eyed chipmunks, flying through the air like mischievous little squirrels and packing their cheeks with sunflower seeds, raisins, hawthorn berries or, best of all, pine nuts.

For Christine Wright, their fascination is so great that she has about 100 of them at her home in Chelmsford, Essex. Mrs Wright, who has become one of Britain's foremost breeders, bought four in the Sixties as pets for her children. Now she keeps a breeding register, tracing origins and projecting breeding patterns, and is breeding from 20 females.

Chipmunks get their name from the female's "chip, chip" call to her mate. They are hardy animals and need a lot of space, living best in captivity in outdoor pens with separate, warm nesting boxes for each pair and their family. Large runs are essential for exercise and need to be made of close-meshed wire, not only to keep the chipmunks in but to keep out predators such as foxes, rats, stoats and owls.

A chipmunk is about 5in long with approximately the body weight of a hamster. In this country, it tends to be of Asiatic origin, notably from Korea or the islands to the north of Japan. It is smaller and less aggressive than its North American counterparts. Litters usually contain two to four babies, although seven have been known.

Breeders are kept in suspense for the first few weeks after the birth of the young until their fur colourings become obvious. The luxuriant tails unfurl later. Although white chipmunks, with the characteristic five body stripes in

palet fawn, are exquisite, cinnamon shades are the most highly prized and, with their darker stripes, are worth at least £500 — in the unlikely event of an example being obtainable.

The more common chipmunks kept as pets cost from £50 to £60 and vary from greyish to darker brown colours, but Mrs Wright says that black chipmunks could provide her next big challenge. In the wild, chipmunks probably produce two litters a year, Mrs Wright says.

Her own chipmunks breed towards the second half of January. Quarantine restrictions, imposed in the Seventies, effectively resulted in an import ban as the costs outweighed the value of the animal.

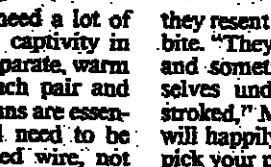
The rodents' fascination lies in watching them, as they resent being handled and will bite. "They prefer to come to you, and sometimes will place themselves under your hands to be stroked," Mrs Wright says. "They will happily run all over you and pick your pockets."

They live, on average, for eight or nine years. They do not hibernate in the full sense of the word, sleeping for one or two days, but if the sun comes out, so do they — even in the winter when there is snow on the ground.

Chipmunks are organised in their housekeeping methods. "All their foodstuffs are stored in separate ladders after being sorted and graded," Mrs Wright says — but adds that this can be a thankless task in the wild as, in the Soviet Union, for example, children are paid to raid chipmunks' stores for the nuts they contain.

SANDY BISP
Recommended reading: Chipmunks, by Chris Henwood, published by LCH, (£4.45).

Mischiefous chipmunk



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THE TIMES

Country events

THIS WEEKEND

● Stowe Landscape Gardens open day: One of the finest landscaped gardens in Europe, with 32 temples and monuments. Stowe Landscape Gardens, Stowe School, Buckingham (0280 822850). Tomorrow 10am to dusk, £2.50.

● Woodland explorer walk: National Trust warden leads the walk through Holme wood. Loweswater, Cumbria. Tomorrow. Park at Watergate Farm, south of Loweswater, signposted from the Loweswater. Mockern road. £1.

● New Forest dolls' house fair: Old, new and kit houses and their contents for sale. Lyndhurst Park Hotel, High Street, Lyndhurst, Hampshire. Tomorrow 10.30am-4.30pm, £1, child 50p.

● Borders walk: Discover the colours, sights and smells of autumn woods in the company of a countryside ranger. Meet at Woodland Centre car park, Monteviot, near Jedburgh. Tomorrow, 2-4pm. Information: Countryside Ranger Service (0836 23301, ext 433).

● The living Arctic: Exhibition on the history and contemporary lifestyles of the Inuit and Indians of northern Canada. Chesham Museum, Gwy. House, Bridge Street, Chesham (0291 625981). Until October 31, Mon-Sat 11am-1pm, 2-5pm; Sunday 2-5pm.

NEXT WEEK

● Flower festival: Aberconwy's contribution to Gwynedd in Bloom with fine displays of autumn colour. Aberconwy House, Castle Street, Conwy, Gwynedd (0492 592248). Mon-November 4, 11am-5pm, closed Tues, £1.

● Half-term craft activities: Children can make badges, masks, mobiles and stained-glass windows under the direction of an education officer. The Wildfowl and Wetlands Trust, Arundel, West Sussex (0903 883955). Mon-Fri 11am-noon and 2-5pm. Admission to trust £1.40 plus 50p for craft sessions.

● Stourhead piano recital: Graham Lloyd plays music by Beethoven, Chopin, Rachmaninov, Saint-Saëns and Scarlatti and gives the first public performance of Ian Venables's Stourhead Follies. Stourhead House, Stourton, Wiltshire (074 784 0348). Fri 7.30pm, £8.

● Fountains floodlit: Last opportunity this year to see the abbey against the night sky with Gregorian chant. Guided tour Friday 8pm. Live choir Saturday 8pm. Fountains Abbey, Fountains, Rippon, North Yorkshire (076 586 335). £2.40, child £1.

JUDY FROSHAUG

Farmer's diary: Paul Heiney

And their arts will furrow

YOU find me this morning in a state of nervous agitation, my stomach gripped by waves of fear at the thought of what tomorrow might bring. It is the most severe case of first-night nerves I have ever suffered, and it is all due to a long-standing ambition to achieve no more than a straight furrow, ploughed with horses, and be judged on it.

Tomorrow is the day of the Great All-England Ploughing Match. It seemed a good idea to enter in those far-off months of summer when the application form slipped through the door. Now the thought is haunting me. Here on the farm I know that I can plough a perfectly decent furrow, but before a critical audience of several thousands I find the prospect unsettling. Forget any idea of rural peace and philosophy; there is as much competition in horse-ploughing as in any sporting event. The eye of the horseman as he glances down the furrow is no less keen than that of the snooker player lining up his cue: the ploughman's hands on the reins are as sensitive as those of any racing-car driver on the steering wheel. He is partly a mechanic as he adjusts and tunes his plough, partly a telepath as he communicates silently with his horses. Do not, whatever you do, attempt to speak to him.

The first time I tried to draw a straight furrow the communication was somewhat lacking. I called to the horses to "Gee up", but they did not move. With a little more urging they leaned forward into their leather collars, but it was clear they were of the opinion that the novice voice behind hardly deserved support. When we eventually got under way, I was so intent on watching a white stick that I had placed at the other end of the field to act as a marker that I failed to notice that my plough was maladjusted to the point where it was sliding over, rather than into, the earth. As I reached the far end, I turned and saw only two sets of hoof prints and a slight dent where the plough had ridden insolently over the soil. I expect I shall dream about that tonight.

The most frustrating part of ploughing is always that moment when, brimming with hope and anticipation, you turn back to look at the furrow and find it has a drunken roll rather than a Roman

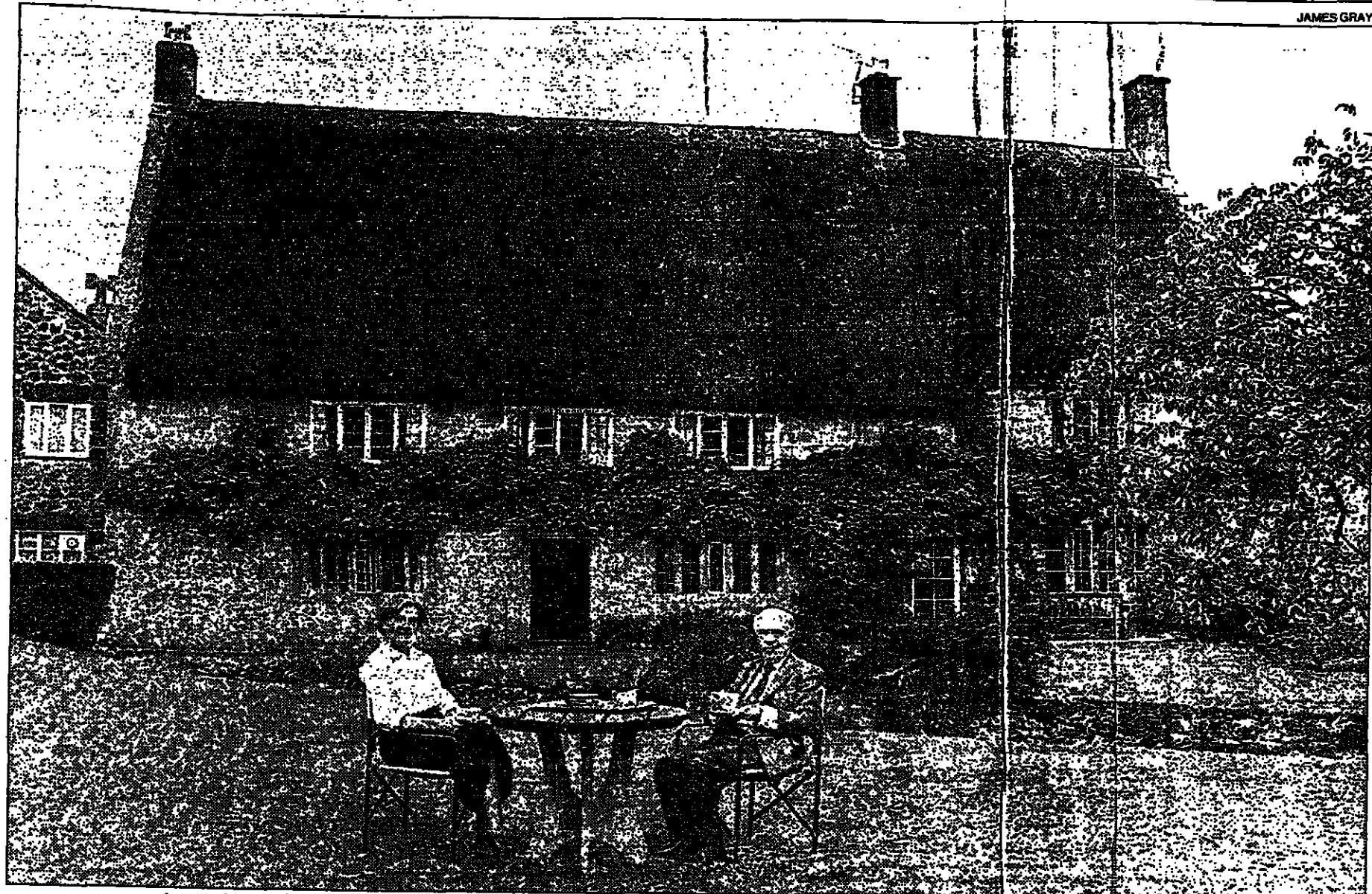
straightness. If I ever write an account of my ploughing days I shall call it "Look Back in Anger".

However, it is as much the horses as the men that draw straight furrows. I was told early on in my horse-drawn farming career that "a good cart horse needs no guiding," and you have only to watch a pair of horses at plough to appreciate the truth of that. Once a straight line has been scratched along the ground, the furrow-horse will follow it with an uncanny accuracy. Not only that, if he is a good horse he will place one foot in front of the other as he walks, so as not to spread his hoof marks on to the unploughed land. He knows when he has arrived at the end of the furrow and, almost without bidding, will start to turn. The horse's obedience to the line, however, can be the ploughman's downfall: all furrows emanate from the first one. It is like laying kitchen tiles; if the first row is not straight the rest will not be.

At ploughing matches it is not always the showiest horses that win, and that pleases me. Throughout the year, proud owners take their highly groomed prize mares and geldings to agricultural shows to compete for supreme championships. But when it comes to ploughing, all the medals and gloss in the world count for nothing if the horse cannot put one foot accurately in front of the other. So tomorrow I shall be sharing the field with all manner of cart-horses which would be laughed out of the ring if they ever presumed to aspire to the Royal Show. But this will be their day. They may not have the best of harness, or the glossiest coats, but they can walk in a straight line, concentratedly and with goodwill.

Wish me luck. At the moment I am going through my list of packing which includes a set of heavy spanners, spare coulters, a couple of mighty nuts and bolts and a large sack of energy-giving oats. I am trying hard to remember all the names of the parts of the plough so that if I am asked, "How far yer hake's snatched over?" or told, "The share's a bit proud of that sod", I shall be able to hold my own. Trying to be a jolly ploughman is a serious business.

© The Great All-England Ploughing Match, from 10-30am tomorrow, Manor Farm, Tongham, near Guildford, Surrey.



Aspiration: Canon Peter Pilkington says that when he retires in three years he will immerse himself in rural contemplation at his Somerset home. His wife, Helen, suspects otherwise

A master of rural relaxation

Home from home: Peter and Helen Pilkington

Canon Peter Pilkington, the high master of St Paul's School, says: "I am an endlessly curious person. The rumour that the man a few fields up has not paid his bills fascinates me. I'll meet my neighbour and it takes him an hour and a half to fill me in on all the gossip."

"That's what he calls a walk," says his wife, Helen, who grew up on the north Yorkshire moors. "I suppose I'm more 'country' than Peter, but he appreciates the country more."

The Pilkingtons, who have lived in tied houses all their married life, bought their substantial 17th century farmhouse in Somerset about 25 years ago as a hedge against inflation and to use for holidays and, eventually, retirement. In a sense it is as much a part of a cloistered community as any of the Pilkingtons' tied homes, since all the families in the tiny hamlet near Ilminster have, at one stage or another, lived in the house, which was once part of a much larger estate.

Mr Pilkington, whose non-egalitarian views have left him swimming against the tide among educationalists (but have made him a favourite among Thatcherites), is due to retire in three years. He insists he will be delighted to immerse himself in rural contemplation, taking services, as he does now, in the local church, perhaps continuing to serve on the prisons Parole Board, and acquiring another dog to replace Ben, a

border collie who died two years ago, to accompany him on his walks. "A walk without a dog is only half a walk," he says.

Mrs Pilkington, however, says she is "resigned to finding myself in yet another cathedral precinct in about four years". The See of Durham, for which her husband has been mooted as a candidate, is due to fall vacant about then.

Their official residence is a gracious, double-fronted Victorian house in Barnes, west London, a half a mile from the playing fields of St Paul's School. The Mercers Company, the school governors, bought the house for their new high master, whose predecessor lived in a Sixties "box" in the school grounds.

"One feels an ambivalence towards any tied house," says Mr Pilkington, former master-in-charge at Eton, former headmaster of the King's School, Canterbury, and an honorary canon of Canterbury Cathedral. "It's a strange sort of schizophrenic feeling: it is yours and it is not yours. In a sense you don't have to worry so much if something goes wrong, you can sit back and let everything be taken care of, whereas in your own home you are always taking an anxious look at the roof, the damp and what needs doing, so that even if it is paradise there is a serpent in it. But you feel you should contribute something. And one doesn't want to get too fond of

it. I think Karl Marx once said that wanting something can destroy it and, to some extent, when you live in a house like ours in London you have to be able to enjoy it without the canker of possession."

He is thankful to be able to shut the door on school responsibilities in his sitting room in Barnes, which opens on to a secluded garden, designed and maintained by his wife. "At my time of life [he is aged 57] I was quite glad to get away from the institutional," he says. "At the end of a hard day you can walk two minutes from the office and watch the new *Star Trek*, have supper and go to bed early, ready for an early morning start."

The pace of life in the country is completely different, with a leisurely perusal of the newspapers in bed after late nights by the fire, breathing in the slightly earthy smell of what the Pilkingtons call the "ancient" countryside and "taking the time to read and renew your intellectual life."

"Our London house is the smartest house of my life and yet I'm slightly without a role there," says Mrs Pilkington, who was accustomed to the 24-hour-a-day commitment of boarding-school life and is still not sure whether to regret or revel in the freedom afforded by a London day school.

"You have half the clergy of London to entertain on November

1," her husband reminds her. "London is the smart house; this is the holiday house." Mrs Pilkington says. "All our best things are in London; our matching glasses and china, our nicest pieces of furniture."

"Yet this is a very elegant house," her husband protests. "And one transfers so a totally different life here. I think I feel more myself in Somerset than anywhere else."

Their daughters - Sarah, aged 18 and Celia, aged 20 - disagree. Like most young people, they prefer London, where Celia has her own flat within the house. Sarah keeps a horse and is able to ride in the country, but she says: "You get out of touch with your friends when you're not in London."

Much as he enjoys country gossip, Mr Pilkington admits that "one of the joys of London is its anonymity". He enjoys its relaxed pace at weekends when so many have left for the country. Their

Somerset home is used only for longer breaks. "My wife and I differ on that point," he says. "I find the drive out of London onerous and a weekend in London, with a walk around Kew or Richmond, can be very refreshing."

Mrs Pilkington, who loves the Somerset house, and sometimes goes there on her own when the rest of the family is either unable or unwilling, feels that "there's an atmosphere in London which makes you feel you should be doing something. If you go out to dinner in London people always say, 'What do you do?', which is why women who do not work like the country so much."

Mr Pilkington, who relishes London life to the full, dining out at his clubs, the Garrick and the Beefeater, says with mock surprise: "Some of my friends say I'd be bored if I retired to the country, but I don't believe them."

Mrs Pilkington, who would love nothing more, looks as if she does.

VICTORIA MCKEE

Originals: Pam Blackhall, kilt-maker

Just-sew story of the kilt

PAM Blackhall is one of a fast disappearing breed in the Scottish landscape, the village tailor and kilt-maker. At the age of 34, she runs, single-handedly, the family business started by William Blackhall, her grandfather, in 1927, in a small shop at Tarland, a grey granite Aberdeenshire village on the edge of Deeside.

Kilts can vary a lot in price and quality. At the time of the World Cup, enterprising outfitters offered a Russ Abbot-style uniform of kilt, sporran, shoes and putter, for £19.99. At the other end of the scale, a hand-sewn Blackhall kilt can cost up to £250, and no T-shirt.

Few kilt-makers venture into the other Blackhall speciality of made-to-measure plus-four tweed suits for gillies and keepers. Most of these get a suit a year from their estate owner and Miss Blackhall has 36 estates on her books. "Some have only one keeper, but one estate I sell to has 13," she says.

The difference between what might be called a countryman's suit for driving pheasants in Hampshire and a keeper's suit for the back of Ben Macdui is that "keepers need more room in places others do not", she says mysteriously. Does she mean that keepers are, or, different in some areas? "No, no, but keepers just need a lot more freedom of movement in a suit. It has to stand up to a lot of wear."

Each suit costs about £250 and is usually made from a tweed exclusive to a particular estate. The colours range from muted blues and greys to giant bracken-orange checks. The mills at Brora in Sutherland are a favourite source of estate tweed.

As befits a royal warrant holder, she is discreet about her customers, but it is well known that Blackhall's has been making suits for Balmoral estate staff for years. She started working with her father when she left school. Then, six years ago, he was incapacitated by a stroke, and Miss Blackhall found herself in sole charge of the business. Her work is more or less divided between suits - she also



Pleating place: Pam Blackhall runs the family kilt-making business

makes suits for customers who are not keepers - and kilts. Given a choice, she would prefer to make kilts.

She machines the binding to the lining of the waistband, but every other stitch in the garment - and there could be as much as 12yd of stitching - is hand-sewn with linen thread run through beeswax for added strength. There are about 8yd of material in a kilt, although she once made one containing 13yd. "He was a particularly big gentleman; more breadth than height."

Half the material has to be pleated 33 to 39 times around the back but, at the same time, retain the continuity of the tartan's sett, or pattern, a mathematical conundrum dependent on the width of the sett. "The Hunting Morrison tartan, with its massive sett, is definitely the trickiest," she says.

She is not impressed by the old adage that kilts look better on men with big bottoms. "If it's made

properly it should hang properly," she says, although some kilt-makers will add a little extra padding for the slimmer customer.

"My father said you could do anything with a kilt, even turn it inside out and remake it - and you can. But it is a lot of work. Even letting one out takes time."

She has made a kilt in less than a day, but it is an experience she would prefer not to repeat. On average, it takes about 33 hours and most of that time is spent sewing by hand.

Miss Blackhall has been asked only once - by a customer trying on the full rig before his wedding - what he should wear underneath. "I told him it didn't matter. He looked shocked, then said: 'No, no, not that - what do I wear under the jacket?'"

ALASTAIR ROBERTSON

© William Blackhall, 15 Melgum Road, Tarland, Abertay, Aberdeenshire AB3 4YL (0339 813359).

CALVADOS. AN UNUSUALLY APPEALING BRANDY FROM JUST ACROSS THE WATER.

WHILE CONNOISSEURS AROUND THE WORLD DEBATE THE QUALITIES OF THE PERFECT AFTER-DINNER DRINK, IN NORMANDY THERE IS LITTLE ARGUMENT. FOR IN NORMANDY THERE IS CALVADOS. A BRANDY UNLIKE ANY OTHER, CALVADOS IS DISTILLED NOT FROM THE GRAPE BUT FROM NORMANDY CIDER APPLES. WARM AND SMOOTH, WITH A SCENT AND FLAVOUR ALL ITS OWN, IT IS A PLEASURE THE FRENCH HAVE BEEN ENJOYING FOR CENTURIES. NOW IT'S OUR TURN.

CALVADOS
A BRANDY OF UNUSUAL CHARACTER

Art shock: read all about it

The staid, glossy world of art and antiques magazines is being challenged by two distinctly unglossy new titles. Who will survive?

Colour presses may be taking over our national newspapers, but when it comes to art and antiques magazines, the traditional black and white newspaper is the latest thing.

Just published, and causing panic at the previously tranquil desks of the seven established colour magazines, are two ambitious monthly productions, one tabloid, the other broadsheet, and both run by women.

First is *The Art Newspaper*, price £2.50, edited in London by Anna Somers Cocks, the former editor of *Apollo*. Last week she was confidently name-dropping down the phone line ("I'm just opening a letter from Jacob Rothschild, who says 'what an incredibly good magazine', and that he has subscribed").

Second is *The Journal of Art*, price £3.25, edited in New York by Barbara Rose, the American wife of the artist, Frank Stella. She demonstrated her confidence in her product by coolly turning up

an hour late to her own Fifth Avenue launch party and leaving early for the opera.

The products the two have launched their broadsides against are arguably largely made up of padding from advertisements, with editorial sometimes hopelessly out of date because of early production deadlines. Could the future lie in a combination of the newcomers' news, and the ever-slicker preview magazines produced by switched-on companies such as Sotheby's and Spink?

Ms Somers Cocks believes she has tapped into an informed readership which just wants the news. "Art is not a part of the entertainment industry," she says. "It is part of the rest of life." Her first edition's rich mixture includes features on the muddle in

the newly amalgamated museums of East and West Germany, and news on stolen Perugino paintings. But it is presented in three barely distinguishable sections — main newspaper, art market and *Vernissage* — and the effect is dense, chaotic and indigestible.

Ms Rose sticks to a more conventional, and therefore readable, magazine format, with sections including news, law, exhibitions, opinion and economics, and colour for the middle section. The best piece, however, on the sentencing of Frenchman Philippe "Fifi" Jamin for masterminding the theft of five

Corot's from the Semur-en-Auxois Museum on behalf of the Japanese underworld, is thrown away in a paragraph.

Meanwhile, the established market is making sterling efforts to improve its act, but obtaining hard comparable statistics on how widely the magazines are read is impossible. *The Burlington* and *Apollo* refuse to give circulation figures, and ABC figures, such as the 15,606 for *Antique Collector*, and 10,586 for *Antique Dealer and Collectors' Guide*, are straight sales figures, as opposed to the total number of readers.

The current market leaders in

terms of circulation appear to be *Antique Collector* in Britain (although *Antique Dealer and Collectors' Guide* claims a higher circulation here), and *Connoisseur* in America.

Both *Connoisseur* and the other leading American magazine, *Art & Auction*, had design face-lifts for the new season; a new editor has taken up his position at *Apollo*. And they have a weapon of the newcomers' own making: the fog of confusion as to which is which, due to the incestuous nature of their origins. Both newspapers are children of the Italian *Il Giornale dell'Arte*, the world's first art

newspaper, launched in 1983 and with a current circulation of 24,000. But despite the fact that *Journal of Art's* title is a direct translation from the *Giornale dell'Arte*, the *Art Newspaper* has a more direct connection.

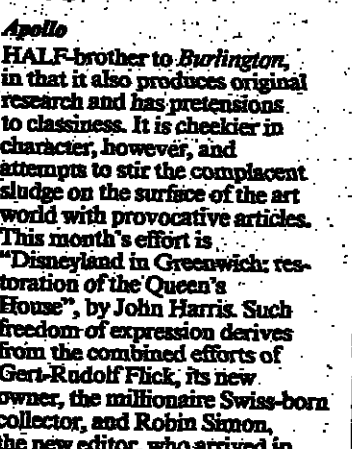
Ms Rose originally went to New York to produce an English language version of the *Giornale* in partnership with Umberto Allemandi, its publisher. But for undisclosed reasons, they separated, Ms Rose linking up with another Italian publisher, Rizzoli. Meanwhile Signor Allemandi employed Ms Somers Cocks to start the *Art Newspaper*, which uses the resources of the *Giornale*, as well as generating its own stories. A final element of spice to the saga is that Signor Allemandi and Ms Somers Cocks are now engaged.

As the battle for the market share begins, the question is whether the readers will change their habits to embrace the newcomers. Despite a slowdown of advertising revenues during the current recession, the public has built up a habit of subscribing to the established magazines. At the same time, the magazines can count on the continued patronage of the impulse browser, susceptible to an arty-looking cover. Guill Collis, the publisher of the *Antique Collector*, says antique magazine supporters, far from being deterred by the advertisements, often buy because of them: "Like *Country Life* readers, they like to see all the lovely properties for sale." In this indulgent mood, who cares if the boundary between advertisement and editorial becomes slightly blurred? The glossy art and antique magazines have one final advantage: unlike newspapers, they can embody aesthetic appeal in a field which is all about beauty, offering readers the chance to be collector by proxy.



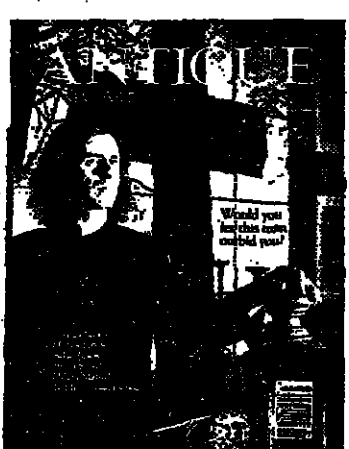
The Burlington Magazine
HALLOWED periodical of original academic research, in which curator speaks unto curator, and a quarter of the text is taken up with reference notes. Past triumphs include written proof that the Getty Museum's painting by Dirk Bouts, the Netherlandish artist, is genuine. Judging by the often leaden contents, and the refusal by Caroline Elam, the editor, to give circulation figures, it could be struggling. Ms Elam insists the future is secure because "we are building an endowment, with funds from foundations and individuals".

● **Publisher:** Burlington Magazine Publications, a private charity. No of ad pages: 32 out of 113. Current editorial crisis facing British export procedures. Current scoop: a piece on "An unknown assistant in Rembrandt's workshop in the early 1660s". Founded 1903-£8.25.



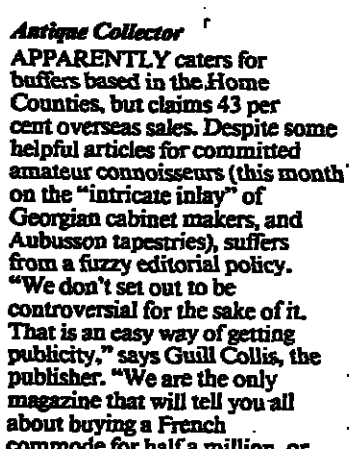
Apollo
HALF-brother to *Burlington*, in that it also produces original research and has pretensions to classicism. It is cheekier in character, however, and attempts to stir the complacent sludge on the surface of the art world with provocative articles. This month's effort is "Disneyland in Greenwich: restoration of the Queen's House", by John Harris. Such freedom of expression derives from the combined efforts of Gert-Rudolf Flick, its new owner, the millionaire Swiss-born collector, and Robin Simon, the new editor, who arrived in July, fresh from a provocative art column in the *Daily Mail*.

● **Publisher:** Mr Flick, who bought *Apollo* for a rumoured £1 million last March. Proportion of ad pages: 84 out of 306. Current editorial crisis facing British export procedures. Scoops: "A Titian portrait enters the Louvre". Founded 1925; £4.50.



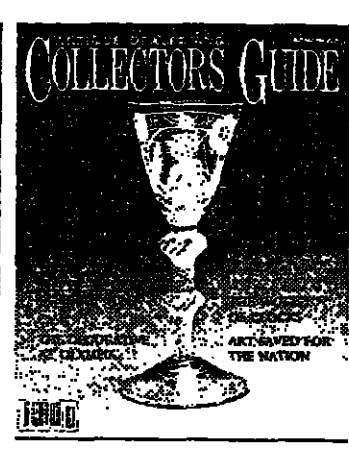
Antiques
FOUR-year-old upstart which has embarrassed its conservative British rivals by the "revolutionary" tactic of milking art's potential glamour and fun. Combines stylish design, provocative articles about people as well as things, and the use of personality writers (the current issue has an unsolicited manuscript by Muriel Spark on the Ravenna mosaics, and a diatribe on Conservative England by Glenda Jackson) as well as articles on tapestries and abstraction. The sense of liberation is partly due to the relative youth, confidence and contacts of Alistair Hicks, its editor, but also to the fact that it is a co-operative venture, with no corporate owner.

● **Publisher:** Antiques Publications, a co-operative comprising Mr Hicks and two colleagues. Ad pages: 65 out of 114. Last editorial: "Berlin — the new centre?" Quarterly; £3.



Antiques Collector
APPARENTLY caters for buffers based in the Home Counties, but claims 43 per cent overseas sales. Despite some helpful articles for committed amateur connoisseurs (this month on the "intricate inlay" of Georgian cabinet makers, and Aubusson tapestries), suffers from a fuzzy editorial policy. "We don't set out to be controversial for the sake of it. That is an easy way of getting publicity," says Guill Collis, the publisher. "We are the only magazine that will tell you all about buying a French commode for half a million, or collecting hat pins." He says the National Magazine Company spends "a lot of money" on "investigative journalism", and that no other magazine "quotes prices like we do".

● **Publisher:** National Magazine Company. No of ad pages: 31 out of 120. Current editorial: "The editor's desk": a blind diary of events. Founded 1923; £3.



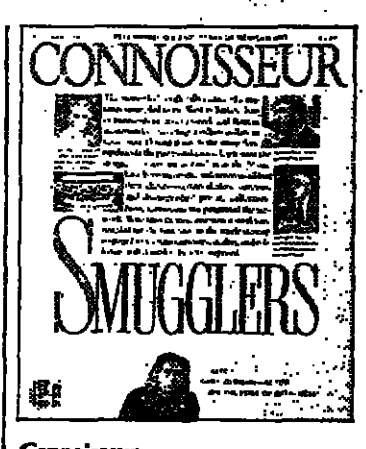
Collectors Guide
AFTER 44 years, this staple for small-time collectors has fallen on hard times, in terms of circulation and bulk (current issue, 72 pages). Philip Bartram, the editor, says the circulation is improving because "whereas items in the £2,000 to £3,000 price range are not selling well, £1,000 has taken off". The problems are reflected in the quality of writing. Here is an example: "Quality is more important than quantity among antiques. On occasions the two elements are complementary." Mr Bartram points to the magazine's "large range of appeal — we cover everything from Grosvenor House to a one-day collectors' fair" and "its long self-life". He hopes the magazine's future lies with the "nouveau riches", probably aged over 35.

● **Publisher:** Statuscourt. No of ad pages: 36 out of 72. Current editorial: "Quality counts"; £2.25.



Art & Auction
THIS most respected of the American magazines manages to maintain a topical tone by combining spicy gossip, portraits and advice to collectors (for example, this month's "Restoration Tragedies" on furniture restoration that has gone wrong). Fears about newspaper competition, however, have led to an unfortunate new design facelift for the autumn season, so racy sectional titles, such as "Talk of the Trade" and "Critical Edge" are now presented in coy parenthesis, for example.

● **Publisher:** Maureen Cogan, wife of Marshall Cogan, who tried to buy Sotheby's in 1983. No of ad pages: 146 out of 264. Current editorial: foreseeing a return to "taste, quality, selectivity and style" in the art market. Current scoop: "Divorce French style." How Paris's auctioneers, Adre Picard Tajan, are considering splitting up. Founded 1979; \$5.



Connoisseur
THIS distinguished British magazine was bought by Hearst Publishing in 1982 and remodelled as a smart-alec lifestyle and entertainment magazine, edited by Thomas Hoving, the former director of the Metropolitan Museum. The resulting rise in circulation from 9,000 to 390,000 was phenomenal.

When Mr Hoving is not discussing subjects such as America's most exotic garden, cars and cats, however, he regularly attacks the acquisition policies of the Getty Museum, and includes in the current edition "Kourosier and Kourosier", about that museum's kouros, or Greek statue of a youth, now the subject of attribution problems. ● **Publisher:** Hearst Corporation. No of ad pages: 85 out of 173. Scoops: "The Turkish Connection, the truth about looted antiquities" and "Are vintage photographs of Greta Garbo fake?" Founded 1901; \$3.

A miniature figure of Mistry

AMONG the most durable artistic products of the 1990 heatwave will be 29 tiny bronze sculptures produced in furnace conditions at Putney foundry, in London, by Dhruva Mistry.

Working at a feverish pace on the foundry floor, the Indian artist created his forms directly in wax at a rate of three a day. "Sometimes the wax went mad. Sometimes it went flat," he says, recreating the moment with flickering hands. "But I liked it because the element of play leads to play."

If his small figures were as monumental as his better-

known sitting bulls, their spears, projecting tongues and two-dimensional smiling faces would make them appear malevolent. "They show how grotesque things can be behind the facade," Mr Mistry says. "How the primitive is still behind the sophisticated being."

The miniature scale, however, renders these "gremlins" or "rowdy urchins", as their maker calls them, both safe and collectable. Their exhibition marks the climax of five years' solitary work. Mr Mistry is one of a number of artists from ethnic minorities enriching the British art scene. He also represents a trend away from the fragility of some modern materials to sculptures in bronze.

Despite the evident attraction of his work, which costs an average of £3,000, Mr Mistry says he is indifferent about his public. "What I do is more important than what I

sell. What is most important is for me to express myself. Eighty per cent of my work is in storage, unsold." He came to Britain at the age of 24 in 1981 under a British Council scholarship, proceeding to an artist-in-residency at Cambridge university in 1984, and then to the V&A museum in 1988. He lives in a cottage loaned to him by a collector, and keeps his dealer, Nigel Greenwood, guessing about what he might produce next.

● **Dhruva Mistry's sculptures** are at the Nigel Greenwood gallery, 4 New Burlington Street, London W1 (071-434 3795) until November 17.



Heat of creation: Dhruva Mistry, with some of his "rowdy urchins" in bronze who reveal "the grotesque behind the facade"

Review

● **Eastern promise fulfilled:** The Japanese are so far shorting the shaky art market, by turning Sotheby's Tokyo print sale into a success by buying most of the 90 per cent sold, acquiring four out of five top lots among the Galle and Daum glass at Sotheby's Decorative Arts sale, and buying the four priciest major Impressionists at Sotheby's. These included the Vianinck flower painting which fetched £110,000, and Utrillo's *Rue Norvins à Montmartre* at £115,000 (on upper estimate). Car crash: Star lots such as the 1900, 1975 E type Jaguar were rebuffed by buyers at Sotheby's auction of the Anthony du Rose collection of old cars last Saturday. A Danish buyer paid top price of £16,500 for a 1953 Jowett Jupiter roadster.

● **Pot luck:** Ceramics held firm, first at Sotheby's ceramics sale, at which all but 15.9 per cent was sold; and at Christie's ceramics sale, where 95 per cent sold.

Preview

● **No records predicted:** this week, due to the lack of show-stoppers, but there is plenty on offer for the canny collector.

Monday: Has Clarice Cliff stamped, or are her brightly-glazed plates and jugs still as eminently collectable as they became last year? Christie's South Kensington tests the market with 300 items. Prices from £200 (for a Bizarre clog decorated in the Blue Crocus pattern) to £4,000 (for a Bizarre Bonjour tea for two service). "The rarer and better, and more interesting shapes are holding up well," Mark Wilkinson, Christie's expert, says.

Tuesday: Elegant gowns fashioned 100 years ago by the Paris dressmaker, Charles Worth, can be swept up for less than their equivalents would cost now, at Christie's South Kensington. A "sortie de bal" or opera cloak of pink silk damask woven with feathers and trimmed with lace, and an ivory satin dress embroidered with paste jewels, are both estimated at £3,000 to £5,000.

Wednesday: The wonders of the world at both Sotheby's and Christie's today, the former with paintings, watercolours and drawings mainly from Commonwealth countries, and the latter with a travel and natural history books auction. Sotheby's features the Horseshoe Falls at Niagara, painted by John Elliot Woodford (estimate £15,000 to £25,000), and a pipe-smoking Maori woman with a tattooed chin (£4,000 to £6,000). At Christie's comes a first edition of Captain John Gabriel's *Narrative of a Five Years Expedition Against the Revolted Negroes of Surinam* (1796), estimated at £2,000 to £3,000, and a unique copy of

John Abbott and Sir James Edward Smith's *Natural History of the Rarer Lepidopterous Insects of Georgia*, once in the library of the Russian Prince Galitzin (estimate £60,000 to £80,000). Top price of £180,000 is expected for a coloured copy of de Bry's *Florilegium* of 1662.

Christie's also offers a chance to reconcept that family silver, with snuff-boxes and bonbonnières for a few hundred pounds, and an attractive Dutch inverted pear-shaped teapot at £3,000 to £5,000.

Thursday: Catalogues raisonnés of 20th century artists including Picasso, Moore and Matisse can be acquired for between £150 and £400 at Bloomsbury Book Auctions, while at Christie's, early English and continental furniture includes a collection of 13 mid-17th century oak panels carved with hippocamps (£1,000 to £1,500), and a charming Charles II oak child's chair at £3,500.

● **Sotheby's London**, 35 New Bond Street, W1 (071-493 8080); Christie's King Street, St James, London SW1 (071-839 9060); Christie's South Kensington, Old Brompton Road, SW7 (071-581 7611); Bloomsbury Book Auctions, 3 & 4 Hardwick Street, London EC1 (071-833 2636).

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ARTS

THEATRE

Business treads the boards

To survive in the enterprise culture, theatres are recruiting bosses who are more familiar with the language of financial plans and flow-charts than Shakespeare. Jim Hiley asks whether the trend is beneficial

In the unlikely setting of the National Motorcycle Museum, Solihull, the vice president of Avon Cosmetics was proclaimed Midlands Businesswoman of the Year. A significant side event was the presence of Ruth Mackenzie, chief executive of the Nottingham Playhouse, among the shortlisted candidates. By placing Mackenzie in the final six, the business community gave its blessing to a rare but growing phenomenon. Chief executives may yet supplant the artistic directors who have governed the British subsidised theatre for over 20 years.

Mackenzie was not at all chagrined to miss the top prize: she only began her new job in July. Her appointment, and the management restructuring that accompanied it, was prompted by a deficit of £160,000 following a costly but less than blockbusting production of *Hello, Dolly!*. In the last year, moreover, the Playhouse has seen the installation of a new board of directors, and the departure of its long-standing artistic director, Kenneth Alan Taylor. Mackenzie seems, in other words, typical of the new breed of strong business managers that are moving in to sort out what is perceived as the mess of Britain's subsidised theatre.

Her responsibilities are long-term financial planning and liaison with a host of community, educational and commercial bodies, and her energies (formerly employed at the South Bank in London) are certainly formidable. By the time she completes a three-year survival plan for the Playhouse in April, she expects to have consulted over a hundred organisations. Her task is nothing less, she says, than the creation of "the repertory theatre of tomorrow".

What does this mean? The repertory theatre of today is traditionally run by an artistic director, who also stages — and in some cases appears in — plays. But, in the new model Playhouse, the artistic director, Pip Broughton, is effectively subordinate to Mackenzie, who has the final say over all policy matters.

The shift of authority away from artists is regarded by many as inimical to creativity. But Mackenzie argues that she will be the kind of

producer long familiar — and accepted as benign — in opera and television. Caution in subsidised theatre results from administrative overload, she explains, as much as financial constraints. She waxes eloquent about the adventures programme which, free of this "administrative overload", Pip Broughton has begun to put together. The previous regime founded with a musical by Jerry Herman. Broughton is currently rehearsing *Toyah Wilcox* in a version of *Thérèse Raquin*.

The palace revolution at Nottingham was partly a response to pressure from the Arts Council, for whom Mackenzie had earlier worked as a drama officer. The Council's drama director, Ian Brown, appears to have influenced the creation of similar posts at Sheffield, Leicester and the new West Yorkshire Playhouse in Leeds. Echoing Mackenzie, he asserts: "These are not dry bureaucrats. They're impresarios."

But in some thespian quarters, they are seen as further evidence of capitulation to the government's

'Art is bound to be incompatible with business... it is essentially oppositional'

RICHARD EYRE

market philosophy by the Arts Council, and to the demise of the "art's length" principle. This trend is expected to accelerate when responsibility for over half the Council's drama clients devolves to the new regional arts boards, whose chairmen will be appointed by the arts minister.

Mackenzie dismisses such qualms with the impudence of a businesswoman on the fast-track. "The 'art's length' principle stinks. The question is: who are they trying to keep at arm's length? I'm happy for local funders to be concerned about the Playhouse. My task is to work with them all, so that they

have a share in our aspirations. Let's be honest about it. The people who hold the purse strings have the power."

But this view must be balanced against that held by such influential figures as David Thacker, director of the beleaguered Young Vic. He argues that, in its dealings with the government, the Arts Council has adopted a needlessly defensive and "quasi-economic" posture. "They should be insisting that we need theatre for its own sake, just as we need the NHS."

In embracing the enterprise culture, the Council has contrived an elaborate scheme for incentive funding and demanded that its clients draw up detailed strategic plans. Thacker's complaint is that the new requirements leave directors with too little time for reading scripts and meeting young actors, which he considers vital responsibilities.

Whether or not the Arts Council's business principles are misguided, they are certainly applied without fear or favour. Everyone must comply, from the smallest touring group to the Royal National Theatre.

"We are writing a strategic plan that will be as long as a novella," says Richard Eyre, the National's director. "It's been through more drafts than the average new play. The exercise has been very useful in concentrating our minds, but there's a danger that business success becomes synonymous with artistic success. It's difficult to talk about values like wit and humanity in this sort of document, though we have certainly tried."

As the drive for efficiency gathers momentum, the National is also being urged to develop its educational programme and other activities beyond the South Bank. Eyre regards such work as "essential", but feels under conflicting pressures, which could pose a further threat to artistic standards.

"The Arts Council want us to maintain a strong presence in the regions, which is perfect in theory. But in practice, it means that resources will be more thinly spread. Our first priority must be putting on plays at the National Theatre."



Ruth Mackenzie, outside the Nottingham Playhouse: one of the new breed of business managers that are moving in to subsidised theatre

So do all these proliferating administrative demands persuade Eyre that the future control of theatres should be in the hands of businessmen and women? On this, Eyre remains adamantly part of the old guard. "In the end, the artist must be supreme. Art is a singular way of seeing things, and decisions need to be taken by someone with a singular taste. Art is bound to be incompatible with business imperatives. It is essentially oppositional."

He regrets, though, that few young directors are "hammering at the door, demanding to run theatres." Perhaps, in view of the

CLASSICAL MUSIC

Winner displays his subtle touch

ARTUR Pizarro's prize recital in the Queen Elizabeth Hall, well attended and enthusiastically applauded, proved that Leeds this year has found a rare winner. His programming of the second Rachmaninov sonata and of Chopin's Etudes, Op. 25, enabled him, of course, to show off a thoroughly formidable technique. However it seemed his intention was equally, or even more, to make clear his fine musicality: his gift for soft, supple melodic shaping, achieved with enough controlled artistry to avoid affectation; his interest in the piano's quieter registers; the nice wit he allows out on occasions (particularly here in his encores when, understandably, his playing was at its most relaxed); and his ability to disguise attacks and blend chords, sometimes almost as if the piano were a body of cellos or horns.

His piano poetry made sense of his choice of Debussy's *Children's Corner* suite as opener, since it provided him with the chance to find a variety of melodic tones and also of textures — from pathetic oddity, and yet also smoothness in "Jimbo's Lullaby", to outdoor clarity in "The Little Shepherd"; and from a quite unusual mellifluousness in "Doctor Gradus ad Parnassum" to an equally unusual tension and sometimes almost ferocity in "Golliwog's Cake-Walk".

Both these outer pieces suggested that Pizarro is not a man for parody, perhaps because he needs to find a centre for his interpretation. The Debussy also showed how well he makes use of a particular piano's resonances, bringing out a chromatic ping in "The Snow is Dancing", cold and bright, like minuscule reflections from fallen snow.

There was the same effect at the beginning of the slow movement of the Rachmaninov sonata, whose potential for rambling was strongly curtailed in a performance which, in tempo and colour, conveyed necessity projected with an inward dynamism.

Where more overt thundering can hardly be avoided, in the finale it was there, though without Pizarro losing his characteristics of fineness and control, except when he was exasperated by some unlucky slips close to the end.

The Chopin studies then opened out still further the extraordinary range of timbre, and mood this pianist commands, still without a touch of "expressive" sloppiness or idle glitter. A couple of instances will have to do the scales at the end of the A flat major study, lapping like ripples at the top of the piano in a beautifully modulated pianissimo, or the unrelenting, unshowy force — made by the study in B minor.

Maurizio Pollini, of course, has force of a very different kind. However, it was not, ideally directed in his concert with a group of colleagues, given as part of the South Bank's "Brave New Worlds" series, even though the 30th-century piece in sight was Schoenberg's String Trio. Both here and in Schubert's lone C minor quartet movement, and indeed later in the Brahms Piano Quintet they performed with Pollini, the string players sounded as if they had met only that evening — and, sometimes, as if they had still to make an agreement about tuning.

Salvatore Accardo's prominent leading was not only a permissible, even delectable piece of self-indulgence, but a positive necessity, and he was specially good in the Schoenberg, bringing out what a large amount of smooth and Viennese triple-time there still remains in one of the composer's last (and, in most performances, toughest) works. The Brahms, too, had nice things from Accardo, as well as from the noble cellist Rocco Filippini, from the suave viola player Toby Hoffman, and from Pollini's headlong resolve. But the real Pollini-night comes next week in his solo recital at the Festival Hall.

PAUL GRIFFITHS

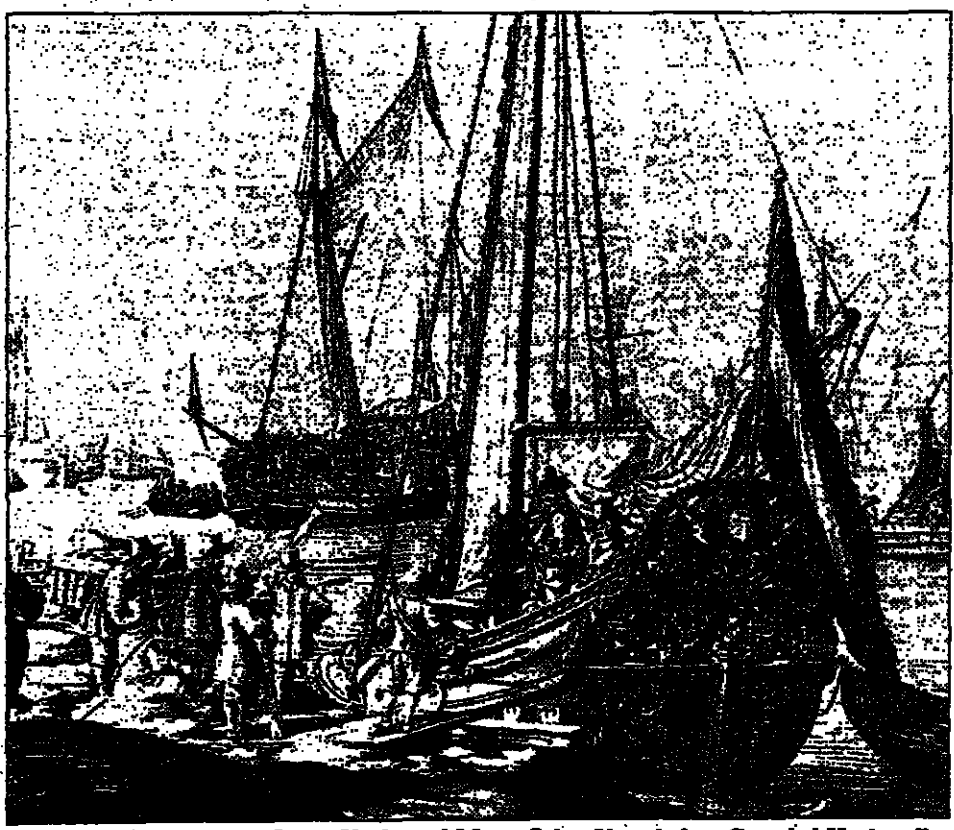
PAINTINGS

Treasure trawled from nether shores

The work of two Dutch painters, the Van de Velde, has been catalogued for the first time by a British scholar. Simon Tait reports

An art historian who has spent more than 50 years tracking down paintings by two 17th-century Dutch artists saw his life's work come to spectacular fruition this week. At the National Maritime Museum, a dinner attended by the Duke of Edinburgh marked the publication of *The Paintings of the Willem van de Velde*, a two-volume book that catalogues, for the first time, the work of the Netherlands' pre-eminent marine painters, the father and son Van de Velde.

The book's author is the 81-year-old Michael Robinson. He has worked since before the war at the National Maritime Museum, which has the world's largest collection of Van de Velde. When he retired as keeper of pictures in 1970, he bought a Volkswagen van, converted it into a studio/mobile-home, and travelled the world in pursuit of the rest of the painters' output. "But there was little chance of his research ever being published," says Richard Ormond, director of the museum. "We certainly could not have afforded it, and it's not one of those things you can optimistically put on a list for sponsors."



Detail from "A Dutch Bezan Yacht and Many Other Vessels in a Crowded Harbour" by Willem van de Velde the Elder: one of the 640 entries included in the catalogue

That was all changed, however, by a chance conversation between one of the museum's keepers and Larry McMahon of the Royal Dutch Petroleum Company. Looking for a way of celebrating its own centenary in suitably opulent style, Royal Dutch decided to underwrite the cost of publishing.

"It was the sort of project no ordinary publisher would touch," said McMahon. "Michael had kept the manuscript under his bed. It came to us, all hand-written, in a pile

chest high. But we were able to put it on to a disc, and modern technology took over. We had to be very gentle: we are, after all, talking about a man's whole life."

The Van de Velde worked during the period when Dutch sea power was at its height, and are regarded not only as important artistically but as a vital visual reference for marine historians. They have a strong link with Greenwich; brought over by Charles II, they worked for 20 years in the Queen's House (which is

now part of the museum). The new catalogue chronicles their complete works for £195, and 250 copies have already been sold. "The way the book's selling, we reckon that not only will it cost us nothing, but the museum should make about £50,000 profit," says McMahon. "Michael's life's work is published, and the Royal Dutch Petroleum Company gets its name on the shelves of pretty well every university, marine library and museum in the world."

THEATRE REVIEW

Dombstoned by dead talk

The Wake Bush

NO SOONER had James Joyce steered *Finnegans Wake* through the proof-readers and into the bookshops than Hitler started the second world war. Joyce blamed him severely for distracting his readers, but in truth it takes a good deal less than a war to stop a person reading this tombstone of a book. The blink of an eye will do it: a glimpse at the manic, overworked, punning density of a single slab of a page.

Any hope that a dramatization of this tombstone personified by Paul O'Hanrahan and Chris Bilton would show what the fuss was about, was dombstoned from really early on. Displaying

feats of memory that deserve the Order of Saint Stanislaus, the two performers speak for 90 minutes, with a pause: a riddle-me-rigmarole of crazy-palavring intended to show what Humphrey C. Earwicker's mind is up to while he sleeps.

His straining word-horse of a mind is conjuring up Irish mythology (Finnegans is Finn MacCool) from a cauldron where all the languages Joyce knew are cooking together. Poured through strainers of Bible tale and Catholic practice, the casserole of words is shoved in the mincer and the players then animate what has to pass for a narrative sequence.

O'Hanrahan is the beaker peaky one who plays the women with a tight voice and a tremor. His eyebrows are angular whereas Bilton's go up

and down levelly — beam bridges to O'Hanrahan arches Bilton is plumper, the apprentice-priest type. Both of them sweat a lot, and no wonder, racing with the effort to put physical life into a series of Mutt and Jeff variations when such a task can never be done. Joyce's notion of the dreaming mind is word-bound; the punning is verbal, not functional and plays with the sign, not what is signified. Deep in the cauldron mighty shapes may be changing but all we observe is the froth.

O'Hanrahan directs and by rearranging the granite-like building blocks suggests the shifting location of the dream. "Every talk has its say," says Shem or Shaun or the Omd or the Gracehoper. But it is a dead talk now.

JEREMY KINGSTON



Bilton: apprentice-priest type

ROCK REVIEW

Violence hung on roughhouse vitality

The Men They Couldn't Hang Town and Country

FOR several years The Men They Couldn't Hang were dogged by comparisons with The Pogues. But to anyone hearing them for the first time on the current tour, the accusation would be mystifying. The Celtic sound of squealing mandolin being less prominent on their fifth album, *The Domino Club*, than on previous work.

Coming on with rolled-up shirtsleeves and more or less sensible haircuts, they look

more like artisans than musicians. But worries that they might play like artisans were unfounded: they may sing doom-laden songs about such depressingly English subjects as the death of industry and the boom of the credit-card culture, but taking their cue from the controlled mayhem of Jon Odgers's drumming, they performed with the sort of roughhouse vitality that would have the occupants of an old people's home jiggling.

As it was, the audience was somewhat younger, and contained a refreshingly rowdy element who saw fit to use the stage for diving practice. At

one stage a roadie had to invite a self-appointed vocaliser to resume his place in the pit (which he did with a shove). There were enough singers up on stage already: the gritty harmonies of frontmen Stefan Cush and Swill Odgers are more pronounced than ever in the new material.

The biggest cheers, though, were reserved for earlier songs — "Bounty Hunter", "Colours", "Lobotomy Gets 'Em Home" — all of them highly crafted tunes which come over as perfect examples of the thinking man's football chant, shot through with the digni-

fied left-wing sentiment that is chief songwriter Paul Simmonds's patch. In a set that was never less than high-voltage, they left "Rosettes" and "Ironmasters", the most violent songs, till the end.

JASPER REES



Alan Alda: a natural Mr Niceguy

"I was scared to death. I didn't like it that they were teaching me how to kill people." Would he have been an effective killer? "I would probably get to the front line and start telling jokes."

John Walsh talks to Alan Alda, star of M*A*S*H.

Plus, in tomorrow's Sunday Times, Hilary Spurling, the biographer of Paul Scott, reveals how she tracked down the people who meant most to the secretive and troubled author of the Raj Quartet novels.

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THE SUNDAY TIMES

Alan Alda: a natural Mr Niceguy

"I was scared to death. I didn't like it that they were teaching me how to kill people." Would he have been an effective killer? "I would probably get to the front line and start telling jokes."

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Norwich City refuse to compromise as the club prepares to play its way out of trouble

Stringer sticks to his beliefs

By DAVID MILLER

IF ANYONE ventured to say that Norwich City were the second best football team in England, they would be thought to need a doctor's certificate to be off work for a while until they recovered. There are, nonetheless, justifications for such a view.

Over the past three seasons, some of the most intelligent Football League matches have been between Norwich and Liverpool, with the alleged Norfolk county bumpkins conceding little, if anything, in efficiency. The reason is that, under the management of Dave Stringer and his assistant, Dave Williams, Norwich attempt to play the same style of game as the club which has dominated English football for much of the past 25 years: hard work, woven around possession of the ball and the factor that sustains this, accurate passing.

Stringer and his team have done this on the back of a small, yet loyal crowd and a small budget, fighting the odds. They will attempt to do so again this afternoon, though the odds are now even more heavily against them.

Lingham and Townsend have departed, after some 200 collective appearances, for Arsenal and Chelsea respectively, because Norwich could not afford to keep them. Additionally, they will today be without Flock in attack, suspended, and Rosario, still unfit after injuring an ankle against Crystal Palace on September 8.

Last season, Norwich would, had England been eligible, have been playing for a place in the UEFA Cup. Now they are deep in trouble. Do such circumstances oblige a manager to compromise, to look for a functional bypass that may sacrifice principles in the hope of safety and points? Not for Stringer and Williams.

"We've got to stand by our principles, that's the only way," Stringer said with a relaxed smile, so far from the tensions that overwhelm many a manager in difficulty.

"Maybe we have to modify a bit. We've been over-playing in our own half, getting caught in possession. Opposing teams know what to expect, that we will try to play with the ball, so they close us down. Now this situation has been amplified by losing our big striker (Rosario), which means we're not necessarily going to retain possession of the longer ball, knocked forward by the goalkeeper."

After losing Lingham, Stringer and Williams had thought in the summer about compensating by playing with a sweeper. They tried it in pre-season and did not lose during a five-match tour of Norway, nor against Watford and Ipswich in friendlies. They were playing not so much with a sweeper as with a spare central defender. Blackie, Butterworth and Polston operated a zonal system, leaving one man free. They opened the season by beating Sunderland 3-2, and all looked well.

Then came four successive defeats against Southampton, Leeds, Crystal Palace and Manchester City - all away except Palace - and Stringer was obliged to revise his thinking. Even so, things went from bad to worse with the 3-1 home defeat by Luton in front of only a 13,000 crowd, and another at Highbury.

"Of course, we're not happy," Stringer said with quiet defiance. "But we do think it's coming back. We played Luton off the park in the first half, scored only once, and paid the penalty. You'd have thought we'd swapped shirts at half-time. In general, we've made individual errors rather than had any deficiency in the system. Players get confidence from results - when results run badly, players stop trying things that they would normally do."

This is where a manager, and his chairman, need courage in persisting with the attempt to play coherent football, with players sometimes short of first division standard and prone to individual error,



Man of principle: Stringer, the Norwich City manager, is defying the odds

rather than resorting to expediency, Wimbledon-style. "I'm not being creepy, but the chairman's been excellent," Stringer said. "He lets us get on with it, believes it will come right. When we were doing well last season, he would say, 'We'll not always be doing well'. He's fair."

The problem for Norwich and their like is finding players, at the right price, capable of playing their kind of football. It's becoming more difficult, Stringer reflects, because of the way other clubs are playing. He goes to look at players and leaves wondering whether they are capable of playing a passing game. He hates the financial wrangles.

"My game's football, not finance," he said. "I dislike the world of negotiation, my response to a difficulty is let's get out there on the pitch in training and put it right. In our situation, we're dependent on players' versatility, such as Phillips and Sherwood, capable of playing in three or four positions."

What about Liverpool today? "It'll be a new experience for one or two of them, in our side, but there's only one way to keep up with Liverpool, and that's to work and stick to your system," Stringer said.



Kuznetsov: daily phone calls



Baltacha: getting a grasp

premier division was keen to try fresh pastures. Alex Totten concluded the deal this summer and Baltacha left Ipswich on a free transfer. St Johnstone agreed to pay Baltacha's transfer fee, but in a variety of positions including outside right. Fulfilling the footballer's dream is easier to say than to do. Baltacha became unhappy and, after a few months, was released. He is now unemployed in the Portman Road first team.

His former exile was ended when his Scottish team-mate, Ian Redford, whose family home is ten miles from Perth, mentioned to the St Johnstone

manager that Baltacha was keen to try fresh pastures. Alex Totten concluded the deal this summer and Baltacha left Ipswich on a free transfer. St Johnstone agreed to pay Baltacha's transfer fee, but in a variety of positions including outside right. Fulfilling the footballer's dream is easier to say than to do. Baltacha became unhappy and, after a few months, was released. He is now unemployed in the Portman Road first team.

His former exile was ended when his Scottish team-mate, Ian Redford, whose family home is ten miles from Perth, mentioned to the St Johnstone

Kiev comrades reunited in opposition

By RODDY FORSYTH

THE sight of Sergei Baltacha and Oleg Kuznetsov together on a football field has been a common one throughout the past decade, so much so that neither player is able to come close to an approximation of their joint appearances. "It must be hundreds of times," Baltacha said when asked for an estimate this week.

"We played together with Dynamo Kiev with the USSR so often that maybe you would need a computer to give you the correct figure."

Not more than a year ago, it would have taken a clairvoyant rather than a computer to predict that when the pair would share a football stage once more it would be in the unlikely surroundings of Macdonald Park in Perth. For one thing, at this time last season, St Johnstone's Sergei Baltacha was now playing for a part-time club chasing promotion from the Scottish first division, while Kuznetsov seemed destined for a career in France or, more probably, Italy.

non, the opposing defences will be dominated by men whose total international appearances for the Soviet Union, at all levels, exceeds 200 games.

The two have, of course, played in Scotland before. They were in the same Dynamo Kiev side which lost to Rangers in the first round of the European Cup in 1987, and it was that occasion which alerted Graeme Souness to the probability that Kuznetsov was a player after his own heart, creative and with a relish for the physical exchange. In 1987, however, Soviet players were not permitted to move abroad until they reached their thirtieth birthday and it appeared that Souness, keen to induce Kuznetsov to earn a living in Glasgow, would not be fulfilled.

The subsequent relaxation of the age-limit rule for exporting players from the USSR was not enough to induce Kuznetsov to set his men; it was possible until he arrived in Scotland two weeks ago that one of the Italian clubs, whose spending power dwarfs even that of Rangers, might intercept him. In the event, Kuznetsov was happy with £12 million in hard currency and Kuznetsov found the prospect of Scottish league football agreeable to his temperament.



Kuznetsov: daily phone calls



Baltacha: getting a grasp

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An explosive combination

By LOUISE TAYLOR

THE prodigal son and the black sheep of the first division will meet again in midfield at White Hart Lane this afternoon. In a previous encounter Paul Gascoigne and Vinny Jones were involved in an altercation in a game between Newcastle United and Wimbledon which produced a memorable photograph and brought the best out of the captain, who was the hero of the occasion. Now they wear the shirts of Tottenham Hotspur and Sheffield United respectively. Gascoigne is cast as the England aristocrat, Jones, a former hood, carrier, the artist.

People in trouble," he said. "Gascoigne is in danger of becoming a spoiled child who can do no wrong. If Vinny had been in the same way, the season it would have been on News at Ten and in prime minister's question time. I am concerned that Vinny and Sheffield United might not get a fair share of the spotlight. People see Gascoigne as the hero and Vinny as the villain. If Gascoigne fouls Jones, that is all right, but if it is vice versa there will be an outcry."

The Yorkshire club, still seeking their first league win this season, will do well to get it in north London, where Tottenham remain unbeaten.

Crystal Palace, labelled "one of the worst ever sides in the first division," following a 4-0 defeat at Goodison Park last season, return today in far better fettle.

Their supporters demand so much, especially at home, that produces pressure that can often lift the team. But this is a chance to show the Merseyside people that we can play a bit, too."

First division

Chelsea v Nottm Forest
Wilson (broken hand) faces a late fitness test for Chelsea; James (hamstring) faces a late fitness test for Forest, as does Clayton and Starbuck stand by.

Coventry v Southampton
Spencer is expected to start for Coventry, who are without Kildine, Drinkell, and McGrath (all injured), and for whom Perdomo (knee) faces a late fitness test. Hodd Wallace are likely to return to the Southampton attack, probably at Bangor's expense.

Derby v Man City
Pickering (thigh) faces a late fitness test for Derby; Cross and Bright stand by to deputise at left back. Megson plays his first league match for City since

Today's team news

April at Brennan's expense. White returns to the squad.

Everton v Crystal Palace
Everton are unchanged: Keown, Youds, and Newell complete for seats on the substitutes' bench; Alsop chooses between Gray and Pardew in midfield. Alsop retains his place, McGovern is a substitute, alongside either Gray or Pardew. There is no place for Hodge.

Leeds v QPR
Luick (collar-bone) faces a late fitness test for Leeds; Day stands by to deputise in goal. With Haddock and Whitworth, Snodden starts at left back. Stojkic, a £250,000 signing from Czech Republic, makes his debut in goal for QPR; Roberts steps down.

Man Utd v Arsenal
United are expected to recall line in midfield. If Anderson faces a fitness test, Irwin will deputise in goal. White will partner Stewart (calf) a late fitness test. Thomas is fit and could return to the

FOR THE RECORD

AMERICAN FOOTBALL
NATIONAL LEAGUE (NFL): Miami Dolphins 17, New England Patriots 10.

BOBBSLEYS
WINTERTHUR, Germany: Steve Armitage (GB) 1st, 1:50.45; Steve Armitage (GB) 2nd, 1:50.45; Steve Armitage (GB) 3rd, 1:50.45; Steve Armitage (GB) 4th, 1:50.45; Steve Armitage (GB) 5th, 1:50.45; Steve Armitage (GB) 6th, 1:50.45; Steve Armitage (GB) 7th, 1:50.45; Steve Armitage (GB) 8th, 1:50.45; Steve Armitage (GB) 9th, 1:50.45; Steve Armitage (GB) 10th, 1:50.45.

BOWLS
CH DUNDEE: North A section: Ben Accord 48, 49, 50, 51, 52, 53, 54, 55, 56, 57, 58, 59, 60, 61, 62, 63, 64, 65, 66, 67, 68, 69, 70, 71, 72, 73, 74, 75, 76, 77, 78, 79, 80, 81, 82, 83, 84, 85, 86, 87, 88, 89, 90, 91, 92, 93, 94, 95, 96, 97, 98, 99, 100.

BOXING
PACIFIC: Mike Smith (England) vs. Steve Smith (England) 1st round, 1:50.45; Mike Smith (England) 2nd round, 1:50.45; Mike Smith (England) 3rd round, 1:50.45; Mike Smith (England) 4th round, 1:50.45; Mike Smith (England) 5th round, 1:50.45; Mike Smith (England) 6th round, 1:50.45; Mike Smith (England) 7th round, 1:50.45; Mike Smith (England) 8th round, 1:50.45; Mike Smith (England) 9th round, 1:50.45; Mike Smith (England) 10th round, 1:50.45.

THE TIMES

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IN BRIEF

Wells bobs for glory
ALLAN Wells, the former Olympic sprint champion, attempting to gain selection in Britain's Olympic bobsleigh team, will set off on Monday in Winterberg on his first competitive race at the British Open championships.

Nick Phipps gained an easy victory in yesterday's two-man event at the British Open championships in Winterberg.

GOLF: Nigel Burch and Mike Inglis, two former European Tour regulars, who used to play together in the England youth team, captured the Golf Plus PGA fourball championship yesterday at Hillside, Southport with a final round of 66 and a 54-hole total of 196.

Nancy Lopez is the final member of the United States team that competes against Europe in the inaugural Solheim Cup next month in Orlando.

ATHLETICS: Signe Wodars, and Christine Wachtel, the two East German 800 metre runners, arrive in Manchester tomorrow for a week's training with the national coach, Norman Poole, and his squad.

MOTOR RACING: With cars to be powered by Porsche V-12 engines, the Footwork Arrows Formula One team, has changed its name to Footwork Porsche.

MOTOR RALLYING: Subaru will give its new Legacy rally car its first United Kingdom appearance on the Audi Sport International rally today.

YACHTING: Storm force winds of up to 90 knots did little to slow the two French leaders in the BOC singlehanded round the world race as they closed on the Cape of Good Hope.

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ATHLETICS

Britons quick off the mark to try out Ekiden relays

By DAVID POWELL, ATHLETICS CORRESPONDENT

BRITAIN is to take part in Europe's first attempt at an international Ekiden-style road relay which, until now, has been run only in Japan and New York. The British teams were finalised yesterday for Ekiden races in Paris and Berlin during the next three weeks.

The concept has caught the eye of the International Amateur Athletic Federation, which will consider next year whether to introduce an official world championship in 1992. Britain has chosen not to wait until then to take the event seriously and will send strong teams to Paris on October 28 and Berlin on November 11.

Richard Nerurkar, fifth in the European championship 10,000 metres, and Ian Hamer, the Commonwealth 5,000 metres bronze medal winner, are included in the six for Paris and Andy Bristow, Britain's fastest 10,000 metres runner for two years, and Steve Jones, the former holder of the world best marathon time, are in the five for Berlin. Rob Denmark, Britain's young national indoor

3,000 metres champion, is also included for Berlin.

According to a Japanese acquaintance, so popular is the event in Japan that most of the population now understand ekiden to mean athletes racing from one point to another rather than the moving of mail, which is what it used to mean. Competitors run in stages of varying lengths. The event, from the Palace of Versailles to the Eiffel Tower, will be 38.9 kilometres long and that at Berlin, from Potsdam to the Brandenburg Gate, 42.2 kilometres.

With one governing body for British athletics imminent, instead of the present separate national associations for men and women, it is expected that the team leadership should be shared between the sexes. Norma Blaine, president of the Midlands Counties Athletic Association, will be head of delegation in Paris and Alan Warner will have that role in Berlin.

BRITISH TEAMS: Paris (inverted): Alison Whyte, A. Pacey, J. Richards, R. Nerurkar, J. Dearing, I. Warner, S. Jones, A. Bristow, M. P. R. Denmark, S. Jones.

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McLaren-Honda and Ferrari share early honours at the Japanese grand prix

Berger zips to prime position

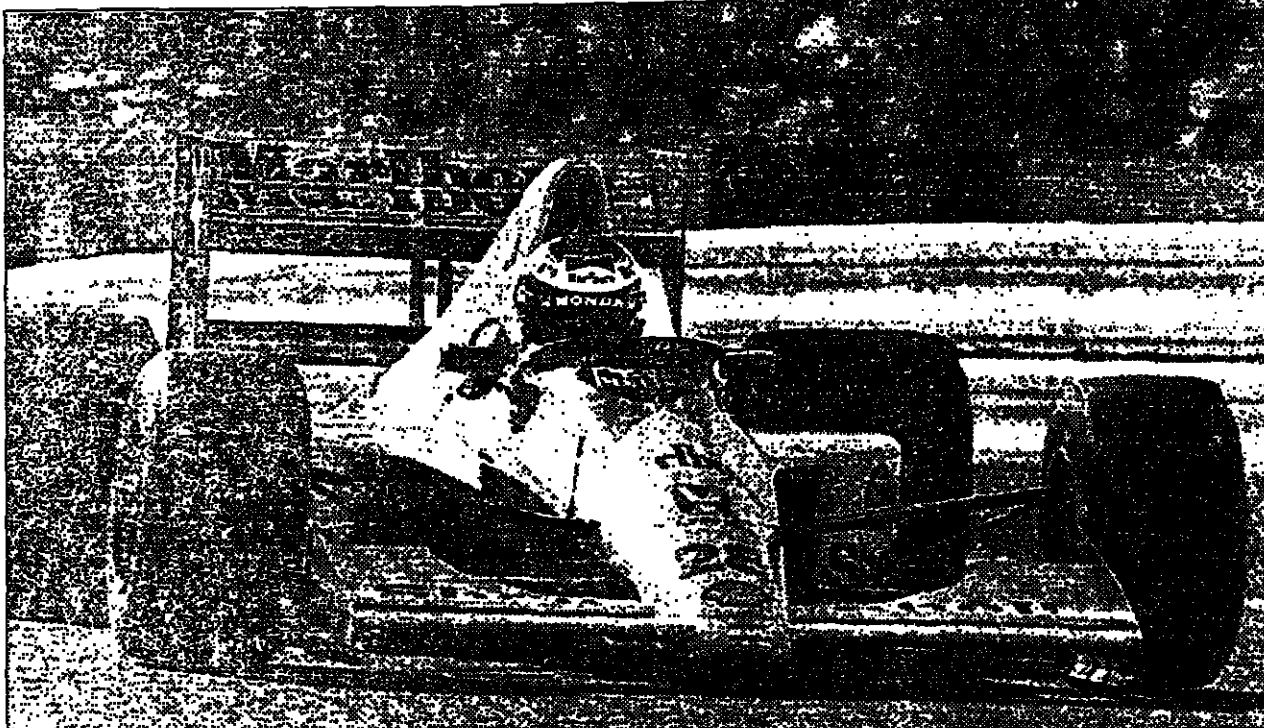
By JOHN BLUNDEN

BOTH Ayrton Senna and Alain Prost were left yesterday with some unfinished business when the first qualifying period for tomorrow's Japanese grand prix drew to a close. Each badly needs to win this penultimate 1990 race: Senna to win the world championship, Prost to keep his hopes of doing so alive. Their best chance would have been to start the race from the front row alongside them.

Instead, the front of the provisional grid after the hour-long session, which was twice interrupted for the removal of damaged cars after accidents, reads McLaren-Honda, Ferrari, McLaren-Honda, Ferrari. But it was Gerhard Berger, not Senna, who had set the quickest time, and Prost who had prevented Senna from making it an all-McLaren front row.

However, with less than 0.6sec separating the first four cars, and nobody having matched Senna's 1990 pole position time of 1min 38.81sec, there was every expectation of some faster times to come from all four leading contenders during the final qualifying period. Nigel Mansell has pledged his wholehearted support to Prost's efforts to retain his crown, but in order to play an active role in this respect he will need either to improve on his fourth fastest time or to get ahead of one or other of the McLaren drivers during the opening seconds of the race.

The Suzuka track is rated one of the best as well as one of



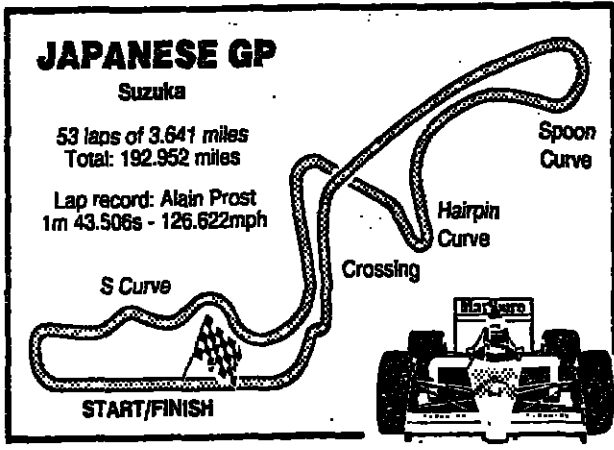
Practising to be perfect: Berger steers his McLaren-Honda to provisional pole position on the Suzuka circuit

the longest, with a wide variety of mainly fast curves, a tight hairpin and the notorious chicane before the pits straight, where Senna and Prost came to grief last year; and 33 laps make this one of the toughest tests of the year for drivers.

Indisputably, the battle for the drivers' world championship is the focus of attention this weekend, but the race is also crucial to the outcome of the constructors' contest, in which McLaren-Honda lead Ferrari by 118 points to 100, with a possible 15 points at stake (for first and second places) in

each of the last two races. Although the drivers can count only their best 10 scores, all points count towards the constructors' title. Third place is even more open, with Williams-Renault leading Benetton-Ford by 49 points to 47.

LEADING PRACTICE TIMES: 1 G Berger (McLaren-Honda, 1min 38.81sec), 2 A Prost (McLaren-Honda, 1.39.28), 3 A Senna (Ferrari, 1.39.59), 4 S Prost (Ferrari, 1.40.27), 5 N Mansell (Williams, 1.40.55), 6 P Mansell (Williams, 1.41.01), 7 J Jenson (Williams, 1.41.01), 8 J Jenson (Williams, 1.41.01), 9 J Jenson (Williams, 1.41.01), 10 J Jenson (Williams, 1.41.01), 11 J Jenson (Williams, 1.41.01), 12 J Jenson (Williams, 1.41.01), 13 J Jenson (Williams, 1.41.01), 14 J Jenson (Williams, 1.41.01), 15 J Jenson (Williams, 1.41.01).



JAPANESE GP

Suzuka

5.81 laps of 3.641 miles

Total: 192.952 miles

Lap record: Alain Prost

1m 43.506 - 126.922mph

START/FINISH

S Curve

Hairpin Curve

Spoon Curve

Crossing

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FISHING

By CONRAD VOSS BARK

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that the quality and quantity of

the discharge matched the

consent.

Commenting on the NRA's

new proposals, the authority's

chief scientist, Dr Jan Pentreath,

said: "The proposed charges

scheme would guarantee us the

necessary resources to do the job

properly. It would also be a

substantial step towards the goal of

maximum financial independence

from government. It would also

rightly shift the burden of cost

away from the general taxpayer

to those who use and benefit

from the NRA's services. Pre-

viously, this cost fell on local

ratepayers through the local

environmental services charge."

However, what is not clear is

whether the NRA might come

into conflict with the

inspectorate of polluting on

water quality standards.

For example, what would

happen if the inspectorate ap-

proved the standard of effluent

from a large industrial complex

at Billingham, on the Tees, and

the NRA, as guardian of the

water environment, said the

standard was too low. It is not

an unlikely situation, and if it

does occur, who would win?

Confident O'Bree

ready for decider

SERIOUS time-trialing has its

season extended tomorrow with

an additional end-of-season in-

vitation event that has drawn 35

of Britain's leading riders to the

South Western 100 50km event

at Cranleigh, Surrey (Peter

Bryan writes).

The trial provides the third

meeting of the year between this

Club's Boardman, the national

100-mile champion, and

Gordon O'Bree, the Scotland

one-hour track record-holder.

The score between the two is

one-all at present, with O'Bree,

who has an unconventional

racing position, winning the first

CYCLING

encounter near Belfast

Boardman making the score

even when he took the 25-mile

title on Humberside.

O'Bree is only now regaining

much of his old form after a

difficult last two months, but

victory in the recent Tour of the

Trossachs has given him con-

fidence for tomorrow's meeting.

Tomorrow's course is a new

one and both riders will be out

today to get to know the terrain.

What they will find is a

deceptively easy first three

quarters, but then a hard and hilly

last 20-minute run-in to the

finish.

Counting costs of pollution

A SMALL revolution is likely to

take place on rivers in England

and Wales from next April

under proposals published by

the National Rivers Authority

(NRA). From next April onwards,

anyone who discharges effluent

of any kind into a river will

have to pay a charge that might

be as low as £30 per year or as

much as £50,000 per year for a

large factory complex.

There would also be charges

for application to discharge

effluent ranging from £50 to

£350, in addition to the annual

charge. The principle is roughly

that anyone who puts anything

into a river would have to pay

for it, would have to get a

consent for the discharge and

would be responsible for seeing

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FOOTBALL

3.00 unless stated

Barclays League

First division

Chelsea v Nottingham Forest

Coventry v Southampton

Derby County v Manchester City

Everton v Crystal Palace

Leeds United v QPR

Manchester United v Arsenal

Norwich v Liverpool (at home)

Sheff Wed v Luton

Tottenham v Sheffield United

Wimbledon v Aston Villa

Second division

Blackburn v Plymouth

Bristol City v Oldham

Cardiff v Watford

Hull v Wolves

Ipswich v Newcastle

Middlesbrough v Bristol Rovers

Notts County v Barnsley

Oxford v Brighton

Preston v Leicester

Sheff Wednesday v Port Vale

Southend v West Ham

Wid. Bromwich v Burnley

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Second-row forwards a priority for selectors

football payments. It is being suggested that the fee for live coverage of the Manchester United-Liverpool Rumbelow League Cup tie is £500,000; it is

Executive Editor David Brewerton

BUSINESS

Small fish Santana takes plunge into the big pools game

By MATTHEW BOND

WHEN it comes to football pools, size is everything. Legislation says that pools companies can only pay out from what is paid in each week as stake money. Big jackpots, therefore, need big companies. All of which makes breaking into the football pools business no easy task. The established players, Littlewoods, Vernons and Zetters, are used to having the market to themselves.

But this weekend a revolution is being planned. In the unlikely venue of a neglected-looking estate agent's shop in Bayswater and a warehouse in Park Royal, west London, Abby Dharamsey,

who as a teenager worked as a checker for Zetters, is hoping to take on the big boys and beat them at their own game.

Santana Pools is the result of an idea Mr Dharamsey had in February. While punters dream of 24 points and a million pound jackpot, Mr Dharamsey dreamt of establishing the fourth football pool. Now, with the help of what he says is £2.5 million of Arab backing, the 32-year-old estate agent-turned-pools promoter, is praying that his dream is about to come true. This weekend Santana Pools is due to pay out its first dividends. But the size of this first jackpot looks rather uncertain. When I caught up with

Mr Dharamsey in the otherwise rather closed looking office of Sheraga estate agents, he admitted he had a few "very healthy" problems.

For a start he has been overwhelmed by the response to the innovative idea of paying out on six score draws, rather than eight. About 3 million people, he says, have responded to a £100,000 press advertising campaign claiming that the Santana system makes winning 60 times more likely. Mr Dharamsey admits that many of these people have yet to receive replies.

A further 42,000 phoned his coupon hotline before he was forced to take it off

the hook a few days ago. Then there was the slight regulatory hiccup, when 492,000 coupons from overseas arrived before the company had been fully registered as a pools promoter. Partly as a result of the mix up, the original September launch date had to be postponed until this weekend.

Mr Dharamsey is starting gradually. For the next three weeks only standing entry coupons — where punters have to stick to a choice of numbers — are being played. "We are not introducing weekly coupons until November 10," he says. His rivals say that, because Santana's customers are effectively choosing num-

bers and not football matches, this removes the statutory requirement for judgment and skill in selecting a winning line and comes very close to being a lottery.

Mr Dharamsey says he has invested £200,000 of his family's money in Santana's ultimate owner, Bonanza Promotions. He also hopes to raise up to £200,000 under the Business Expansion Scheme. He knows that people are curious about where his backing is coming from. What he will say is that the Dubai-based consortium that bought out his estate agent firm (trading, he says, with the Aga Khan's approval, as

Sheraga estate agents) in 1988, is also backing his latest venture.

More than 400,000 coupons have been received, but quite how many would have been processed in time for kick-off was something of an unknown.

Terry Yardley, finance director of Zetters, said he was awaiting Santana's arrival "with interest". That interest will doubtless be heightened by Mr Dharamsey's claim that his financial backers have also built up a 2.75 per cent nominee holding in Zetters. The game is clearly far from over.

Legal ban, page 44

James secures Dan Air deal but at a price

By MARTIN WALLER

DAVIES & Newman, owner of Dan Air, has agreed an unprecedented rescue package which would give its bankers a multi-million pound windfall "special fee" at the end of next year in return for not pulling the plug now.

As expected, David James, the man behind this year's Eagle Trust rescue and a respected company doctor, becomes chairman and chief executive on November 1, with powers to restructure the board and reorganise the company, raising the possibility of significant disposals. But he would not spell out his plans in detail.

Among the conditions he has imposed are the effective disenfranchisement of 52 per cent of the share capital owned by the Davies and Newman families. This cannot be used to vote down any of the new management's proposals, although the families retain and control a further 10 per cent. Mr James replaces Frederick Newman, the chairman, who leaves the board altogether.

Mr James is coming in on a salary of £30,000 a month for 15 months at least, with a minimum £300,000 payment if the contract is cancelled for any reason.

A new working capital facility has been arranged with Davies & Newman's five

main banks, led by Lloyds, which would increase existing facilities by £30 million to £70 million. But the unprecedented aspect of the deal is the enormous "rescue fee" the banks have apparently wrested from Mr James in return for their continued support. He said that the company was in breach of its covenants and the banks could have put in receivers at any time.

Because of the value of the assets, including aircraft, hangar facilities and 50 per cent of Gatwick Handling, the banks stood to lose nothing. "They were covered, belt and braces," Mr James said.

Against debts of £45 million, the value of the assets in the last balance sheet was £44 million and the real value significantly more than that, said Mr James. The losses, if the plug had been pulled, would have been unsecured creditors, owed more than £60 million, and shareholders, who would probably have received nothing.

He added: "Banks which are already suffering pain are much easier to negotiate with. We've had to pay a price for it. I don't think I've seen a deal of this construction that's been performed in the market before. I think it's the start of a trend."

The banks' eventual payment will be tied to the company's net asset value as assessed by Coopers & Lybrand, its auditor, which put together the package. The first payment will come on December 31, 1991.

The banks will be entitled to a third of net asset value, subject to a minimum of £8.75

million which becomes payable on that date. The first percentage applies on net assets of up to £45 million; the banks will then get a tenth of any amount by which this sum is exceeded. All but the minimum payment can be deferred, though the company will have the right to buy the banks out after the end of 1992.

Mr James said he was confident the necessary money would be forthcoming, on the basis of available cash projections over the next year. A refinancing package, however, remained a "back-stop position," while there was the possibility that the banks might take equity for cash. But there was City scepticism over whether Davies & Newman, which lost £3.34 million pre-tax in the last financial year, could be turned around so quickly, given that Mr James has himself given warning that interim losses for the half year to end-June would substantially exceed the £7.66 million lost last time.

One analyst said: "What I find very strange is that the banks have not pulled the plug. What's changed at Dan Air? How are they actually going to stop losing money?" Mr James commented: "I think we can look to see the value of Davies & Newman rise considerably as far as investors are concerned."

Virgin Atlantic has a 3 per cent holding in Davies & Newman. A spokesman said: "We're delighted that Britain's oldest-established independent airline has secured the finance. We look forward to their fortunes turning the corner over the next two years."

James set to take helm at Dan Air

By HARVEY KILGORTH, AIR CORRESPONDENT

ONE of the City's toughest and most respected rescue packages has been agreed by the banks to save Dan Air, the airline which has been in receivership since last year.

From The Times, October 18

Tottenham shares suspended

By JONATHAN PEVYN

DIRECTORS and advisers of Tottenham Hotspur went into an emergency board meeting last night following the suspension of the north London football club's shares at 91p.

The suspension came after intense speculation about the contents of a report into the company's financial affairs by Ashurst Morris Crisp, the law firm. According to one well-placed source, the report has uncovered new information casting doubt over the financial status of the club.

A Tottenham statement said the company was "close to finalising" a shareholders' circular.

The stock exchange said the suspension would be reconsidered after the publication of the circular, giving a "full and adequate disclosure" about recent events. It had been expected all week but was delayed due to disagreements on wording between the stock exchange and Brown Shipley, Tottenham's financial adviser.

If the club is facing financial difficulties, it could raise funds quickly through a "fire sale" of its two high-profile internationalists, Gary Lineker, the England captain, and Paul Gascoigne. The two players have a combined market value of £10 million.

Receiver called in as 50 dismissed at Nadir-owned papers

By ANGELA MACKAY

A RECEIVER will be appointed next week to Mercury Newspaper Group, a company owned indirectly by Asil Nadir, the chairman of Polly Peck International.

About 50 staff at the four free news sheets in the group based in Bristol and Stroud were dismissed yesterday without being paid wages due, or severance pay or one month's notice.

The group is owned by a company in the Cayman Islands, Glendarnie Ltd, that is funded by South Audley Management, a company owned by a Nadir family trust, of which Mr Nadir is the principal beneficiary.

Latham Crossley & Davis, the accountant, is already looking at the company's accounts and is expected to be appointed the receiver by court order early next week. Midland, banker to the group, is believed to have been aware that Mercury was suffering financial difficulties for some time. However, a spokesman for the bank said yesterday that Midland would not comment on customer relationships.

An executive of Mercury said the money from SAM "just dried up" and that Midland would not advance any more cash on the company's overdraft. "We had been assured two weeks ago by representatives of SAM, including one of the board, Sabire Djanogaz, that there were no problems and that Mercury would continue to receive financial support," the executive said.

Carol Taylor, the group editor, said the sale of the company, which was bought almost two years ago, had been contemplated, but no buyers had been found.

She added that the staff were extremely disappointed at their abrupt dismissal and had received no warning.

South Audley Management refused to comment on the closure.

Mercury was a loss-making operation which Mr Nadir, through SAM, had been continuing to fund. It published about 150,000 papers weekly.

Meanwhile, the stock exchange council has decided that traded options on Polly Peck International will remain open for trading on Monday, but trading in the ordinary shares of PPI will continue to be suspended.

Job losses threat for shipyard

By ROSS TIEMAN, INDUSTRIAL CORRESPONDENT

ALMOST a third of the 3,400 workers at Yarrow shipyard on Clydeside could lose their jobs unless orders are received next year, Sir Robert Easton, the yard's managing director, said.

The yard, at Scotstoun, is Scotland's biggest manufacturing employer. "The workload is such that if no new orders are received in 1991 there could be a problem," he said. "It has created a dip in the building programme."

Sir Robert said the jobs of 500 full-time workers might have to be shed by redundancy from 1991 onwards. In addition, 350 short-term workers could also lose their jobs, and another 200 jobs were likely to be lost through natural wastage.

Yarrow is owned by General Electric Company. It is building a batch of five type 23 frigates. "Two are already afloat. The yard is also engaged in weapons system work for the Harland and Wolff shipyard at Belfast and Swan Hunter on Tyne." Sir Robert said the yard was targeting the North Sea oil exploration industry in an urgent search for fabrication work, to improve its workload.

Members 'will save billions of pounds a year'

EC report counts blessings of a fully united Europe

FROM PETER GUILFORD IN BRUSSELS

ECONOMIC and monetary union, including a single currency, will give the European Community lower transaction costs, cheaper welfare, far higher output and greater protection against economic shocks such as the Gulf dispute, a fresh report by the European Commission says.

The timing of the commission's comprehensive analysis of the cost and benefits of EMU, entitled *One Market, One Money*, is crucial, as it underpins fresh calls from Chancellor Kohl and Jacques Delors, the EC president, to enter stage two of the Delors plan by 1994.

This, according to Henning Christophersen, the EC's finance commissioner who unveiled the report in Brussels yesterday, could lead to the creation of an EC central bank and eventually a single currency just 18 months later.

The report has taken EC and outside officials more than a year to compile. Commission sources insist they have carried out their research "in total intellectual freedom".

The community will save between £9 billion and £13 billion a year, or 0.3 to 0.4 per cent of GDP, by locking exchange rates irrevocably and eliminating transaction costs. Smaller countries, traditionally considered the most likely losers in an economic and monetary union, will gain the most, the report says.

EMU will boost GDP in small, open economies by 0.9 per cent, but only by 0.5 per cent for their more powerful partners.

It will also eliminate the perils of exchange rate uncertainty, particularly for Britain and other late arrivals to the exchange-rate mechanism. Monthly variations average 0.7 per cent for the original members and 1.9 per cent for the others, according to the report.

The community could better withstand the impact of the

Gulf dispute and other random economic shocks under EMU by spreading the weight among all 12 countries.

The commission's report proclaims the virtues of the ecu which, as a single, internationally-regarded currency, would save the community's exchange reserves about £11 billion. It would also increase the share of ecn-denominated assets in the world financial portfolio by 5 per cent and increase the amount of EC trade invoiced in ecus by 10 per cent. This in turn would slash the costs of the community's trade with the outside world.

Officials commenting on the document said they now see the 12 currencies as the greatest barrier to trading across community borders.

The report draws a parallel between currency union and the EC's internal market, remarking that efficiency gains are comparable in both.

EMU would boost investment and growth, as the removal of uncertainty reduces the rate of return demanded by shareholders. Reduction by a mere 0.5 per cent is already enough to boost output accumulating to 5 per cent of GDP, the report argues.

As the 12 converged their

High-inflation countries such as Portugal and Greece, which would lose out from EMU by forfeiting inflation tax revenues, would find these losses compensated for by the equalisation of real interest rates. During the transitional phase to EMU, this could lead to gains on interest payments of between 2 and 5 per cent of GDP.

Mr Christophersen claims there is "no proof that EMU will disadvantage the community's peripheral regions", nor its outlying member states. Instead, he believes it will attract investment in the long term and boost their foreign trade by cutting out exchange rate costs.

Christophersen: looks ahead

Storehouse door closes on Conran era

By GILLIAN BOWDITCH

SIR Terence Conran, the founder of Habitat, has severed his final link with Storehouse, the retailing empire he created when he merged his original furniture business with Mothercare and British Home Stores.

Sir Terence, who stood down as chairman of Storehouse six months ago, has relinquished his position as a non-executive director. He said that he was leaving Storehouse, but added that he did not make a good non-executive director. "I'm an executive creature by habit," he said. "I, along with some other people, had high hopes of changing things in retailing at one time and I'm obviously disappointed that my dreams did not work out."

Speculation that the relationship between Sir Terence and Michael Julien,

the chief executive of Storehouse, had become more strained recently was denied by Storehouse. A spokeswoman for the retailing group added: "Sir Terence's departure from the board had not been planned but it was a logical continuation of the reason why he stood down as chairman."

Sir Terence is believed to have upset members of the Storehouse board in July when he sold a 5 per cent holding in the company for £23.5 million. Although Storehouse knew of his intention to sell the shares, the size and manner of the disposal by Sir Terence came as a surprise.

Sir Terence still holds 2.2 per cent, which, analysts believe, he wants to place, although he says he has no plans at present to sell any more shares. His 7 per

cent stake at one time was worth more than £100 million.

As part of the deal when he stood down as chairman, Sir Terence purchased the Conran Shop in London's Fulham Road for £3.52 million. Sir Terence said he was now involved in a number of projects on the retail side which could lead to a conflict of interest with Storehouse. He said his departure from the company's board "cleared the air". He is also considering a number of approaches from other groups.

One analyst said: "It does formally put an end to the Conran era at Storehouse. In the end, he didn't have the stomach for the scale of reorganisation needed, especially as it meant undoing many of the things he had done." Storehouse shares rose 4½p to 138p.

Sterling slips as Norway links up to ecu

By GRAHAM SEARJEANT, FINANCIAL EDITOR

AS STERLING started to look shaky just two weeks after joining the European exchange-rate mechanism, falling to about DM2.94, Norway announced it would fix its currency to the ecu, despite not being a member of the European Community or its monetary system.

The krona will be fixed at a central rate of 7.9940 to the ecu from Monday and Norway has unilaterally committed itself to keeping within 2.25 per cent of this rate. This is the same narrow band used by most ERM currencies, but sterling is, for the time being, allowed to move within a 6 per cent band.

Norway has made the move unilaterally to aid currency stability, since much of its trade is with ERM countries. But it will also make an informal association with the monetary system, including regular consultation between Norwegian ministers and the European Community.

The move is seen as a staging post towards formal association with the community after talks launched in Brussels in June by Arne Skauge, the Norwegian finance minister.

Sterling fell further below its central rate of DM2.95 after the Eastbourne by-election result. The pound opened at DM2.9465 and stayed near that level till mid-afternoon. A rally took it briefly above its central rate when the Bank of England made its final fix of the day.

Later, however, sterling slipped further to a middle rate of DM2.9432. Dealers thought the Bank of England had intervened discreetly, but not on a substantial scale.

Robert Thomas, currency analyst at Midland Montagu, said sterling was weak because of profit-taking after ERM entry and because dealers expected further cuts in interest rates. They did not believe the chancellor would contemplate reversing the latest base rate cut to defend the currency. Political uncertainty had been intensified by the Eastbourne result.

International investors had turned away from high interest rate currencies such as sterling, he suggested, partly because yen and mark interest rates were now relatively high and also because some financial institutions, notably Japanese banks, were repatriating funds to shore up their capital ratios.

Sterling held its own against the dollar, which remained the weakest of the leading currencies. The dollar hovered just above DM1.50.

The relentless decline in the price of oil continues. London traded \$2.46 lower at \$31.65 a barrel for December Brent, a net loss of \$5.70 this week. In New York, Nymex crude oil futures for November fell below \$34 a barrel, down more than \$2.80 on Thursday (Martin Barrow writes).

The change in sentiment by traders on both sides of the Atlantic reflects diminishing fears of short-term supply difficulties and, in the absence of concrete developments in the Gulf, renewed hopes of a peaceful settlement with Iraq.

THE POUND

US dollar

1.9635 (+0.0095)

German mark

2.9505 (+0.0012)

Exchange index

94.5 (+0.1)

STOCK MARKET

FT 30 Share

1621.5 (+3.4)

FT-SE 100

2089.0 (+6.4)

New York Dow Jones

2472.28 (+19.56)

Tokyo Nikkei Ave

24481.49 (+114.41)

INTEREST RATES

London: Bank Base: 14%

3-month Interbank 13½-13¾%

3-month eligible bills 13½-13¾%

US: Prime Rate 10%

Federal Funds 7¾%

3-month Treasury Bills 7.28-7.28½%

30-year bonds 99½-99¾%

CURRENCIES

London:

C: \$1.9635

C: DM2.9505

C: Sfr2.4897

C: FF9.160

C: Yen245.11

C: Index 94.5

ECU 1.666091

SDR 1.737130

C: ECU1.432478

C: SDR1.355612

New York:

C: \$1.9635

C: DM2.9505

C: Sfr2.4897

C: FF9.160

C: Yen245.11

C: Index 94.5

ECU 1.666091

SDR 1.737130

C: ECU1.432478

C: SDR1.355612

Gold

London Fixing:

AM \$371.75 pm \$372.00

close \$372.25-372.75 (£190.00-190.50)

New York:

Comex \$373.10-373.60

North Sea Oil

Brent (Nov) \$33.20 bid (\$36.40)

Denotes latest trading price

Tourist Rates

Bank Buys Bank Sells

Australia \$ 2.61 2.43

Austria Sfr 13.50 12.50

Belgium F 36.36 33.33

Canada C\$ 1.17 1.10

Denmark Dkkr 16.46 15.46

Finland Mk 5.94 5.44

France Ffr 6.55 6.15

Germany Dm 2.36 2.21

Greece Dr 340.75 310.75

Hong Kong \$ 7.80 7.20

Italy Lit 2036 1936

Japan Yen 160.80 150.80

Netherlands Gld 10.36 9.36

Norway Kr 136.48 126.48

Portugal Esc 200.48 180.48

South Africa Rd 12.72 11.72

Spain Ptas 166.64 156.64

Sweden Sfr 13.50 12.50

Switzerland Ffr 6.55 6.15

Turkey Lira 160.80 150.80

USA \$ 1.96 1.86

Yugoslavia Ddr 136.48 126.48

Notes for small denomination bank only as supplied by Barclays Bank PLC. Different rates apply to travellers' cheques.

Source: Reuters. Last updated 12.00pm Oct 19, 1990.

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Intranet:

Michelin tumbles on loss forecast

SHARES in Michelin, the world's largest tyre maker, were temporarily suspended on the Paris bourse yesterday after falling 10 per cent to Fr61.20 (€5.19).

The drop followed a leaked profits forecast, according to which the company expects a year-end loss of Fr2.3 billion, higher than expected.

The world tyre industry, and especially Michelin, has been hit by the American slowdown and the resulting reduction in car sales. The loss is blamed on Uniroyal Goodrich, the American tyre firm bought in May. The \$715 million buy pushed up borrowings by 10 per cent to Fr33.7 billion, which, in addition to higher world interest rates, will mean an expected threefold rise in the interest charge to about Fr2.8 billion.

The shares fell to Fr59.40 when trading resumed.

Metro wins radio battle

Metro Radio Group, based in Newcastle, which has been bidding for Yorkshire Radio Network, has finally won control of the USM-quoted commercial radio company.

Metro cleared the final hurdle when a resolution to amend YRN's articles was passed at yesterday's extraordinary meeting. The articles had prevented any single shareholder from having more than 10 per cent of YRN's stock. Metro now owns or has received acceptances for 9.27 million YRN ordinary shares, representing about 98.17 per cent of YRN's share capital.

The cash alternative has, however, been closed, but the increased offer remains open until further notice.

The complex and protracted bid is estimated to have cost about £2 million, which will be taken below the line. Most of YRN's board is likely to resign.

MY in the red

MY Holdings, the packaging company, incurred pre-tax losses of £2.05 million in the year to end-August, against a taxable deficit of £631,000 for the eight months to end-August 1989. Losses deepened from 1.28p a share to 3.68p. Operating profits were £11,000 on turnover of £47.5 million, against £178,000 and £37.4 million respectively. The final dividend is passed.

Abercom, the controlling shareholder of MY Holdings, reported a pre-tax loss of £19.15 million (£3.9 million) for the year to end-August against a loss of £4.92 million last time.

Unit trust move

THE Royal Bank of Scotland's unit trust subsidiary, Capital House, is taking over the five unit trusts operated by Scimitar Investment Management.

The transfer of the funds worth £16 million-£20 million is subject to regulatory approval. Unit holders will receive a letter from Scimitar and Capital House detailing the agreement.

Insurers face £800m of claims over subsidence

By JONATHAN PREYIN

SUBSIDENCE claims related to the hot summer could cost the insurance industry £800 million this year, indicating further heavy losses on companies still reeling from the effects of January's storms.

The claims could also trigger increases in household premium rates.

Subsidence fears hit the sector on Thursday when Royal Insurance, the United Kingdom's second largest household insurer, indicated that claims this year may be double those of 1989, when it reported subsidence losses of £60 million.

Sun Alliance, the biggest insurer, yesterday made a statement to the International Stock Exchange after a flood of enquiries from analysts and investors, worried about the scale of its subsidence problems.

The company said: "There is every indication that the number of claims will exceed that for 1989. If this proves to be the case, premium rates will certainly be increased in 1991."

Sun Alliance share improved 8 1/2p to 20 1/2p.

A spokesman for Sun Alliance said it was still too early to say whether the value of the claims will also be higher.

Last year, Sun Alliance announced £68 million subsidence losses on 7,800 claims while industry losses totalled £400 million.

Legal & General also said it was experiencing a higher level of claims and expected higher premiums. In September,

Joe Palmer, the L&G chief executive, said the market was beginning to accept the necessity of higher premium rates.

Analysts have already cut their forecasts for Royal Insurance, which is expected to announce huge three-quarter losses in November, and are likely to turn their attention to the figures they have pencilled in for the other big insurers. David Hudson, at BZW, has altered his full-year loss forecast for Royal from £46 million to £101 million.

Assuming a similar experience at Sun Alliance, forecast losses of £33 million will have to be revised, while total industry losses would be close to £800 million.

Some analysts are sceptical about the larger insurers' ability to force through premium rate increases. Simon Willis, an insurance analyst at County NatWest, said the Sun statement showed "a sense of false confidence" because of increasing competition in the household market from smaller companies.

However, the market is dominated by large mortgage lenders, which historically have taken their business to the big insurers and have not resisted premium increases.

Increases are likely to be announced next spring, but will not be felt by policyholders until early 1992 when the mortgage lenders pass them on to the end consumers. Mr Hudson said a premium rate increase of up to 10 per cent could be expected.



Necessity of higher premiums: Joe Palmer, of L&G

OMI revises down two years' profit

By GRAHAM SEARJEANT, FINANCIAL EDITOR

PROFITS of Optical and Medical International, put at \$6 million pre-tax in the company's annual report for the year to end-March, have been revised down to \$5.1 million by a retrospective change in accounting policy.

Profits of the optical and engineering technology group for 1988-89 have also been revised down from £7 million to £6.1 million.

The change involves charging some internal overheads geared to the group's acquisitions against profits rather than capitalising them

in the cost of the companies OMI bought. After the annual report was published at the end of September, OMI was warned the policy of capitalising internal acquisition costs might not be valid for some expenses.

OMI is to send shareholders an explanatory circular and a revised set of accounts.

Under the redrawn accounts, earnings per share for 1989-90 are only 7.5p instead of the reported 8.5p. But the 5.21p total dividend recommended is not to be changed. OMI shares fell 6p to 75p.

Pirelli in \$250m Soviet deal

By WOLFGANG MÜNCHAU, EUROPEAN BUSINESS CORRESPONDENT

PIRELLI, the Italian tyre company, is investing \$250 million in a Soviet joint venture company, which will produce tyres mainly for the fledgling Soviet car market (Wolfgang Münchau writes).

The deal amounts to yet another example of Italian interest in the area, as Fiat, the Italian car manufacturer, is also planning to set up a car manufacturing plant in the Soviet Union.

The Soviet subsidiary of Fiat is likely to become one of the main clients of Pirelli, although the company said officially that the joint venture will not be dependent on a deal with Fiat. However, such a deal appears to be the main rationale of the move. A spokesman for Fiat said he was not aware of any deal. The plant's total output is expected to be 5 million tyres a year.

The venture company, in which Pirelli will hold a one-third stake, will use Pirelli's manufacturing technology and Soviet raw materials and labour. The plant will be built in Nizhnekolymsk, to the south east of Moscow near the new Fiat plant.

Negotiations are expected to last until the end of the year. Production is not expected to start until 1992 at the earliest.

Lufthansa takes top spot in Berlin

By WOLFGANG MÜNCHAU, EUROPEAN BUSINESS CORRESPONDENT

LUFTHANSA, the German state airline, will operate 386 flights a week to Berlin from October 28. On that day the airline will become the largest operator in the city, relegating British Airways, which operates 295 return flights a week, to second place.

Berlin flights were one of British Airways' most profitable routes. But after the fall of the inter-German border, the planned abolition of a subsidiary with which Bonn subsidised flights in and out of Berlin, and stronger competition, the Berlin profit premium is likely to narrow.

Lufthansa's resumption of Berlin flights follows a 45-year ban on the airline flying the route, which until now has been open only to an oligopoly of airlines from Britain, France, America and the Soviet Union.

Lufthansa's right to fly to Berlin has been reinstated as part of the allied agreement on German unity. The decision to resume the routes follows a deal between Lufthansa and Pan Am, the American airline, under which Lufthansa takes over Pan Am's slots.

Lufthansa will fly from Tegel, one of Berlin's two

Asahi cuts Elders deal price by £80m

From BRIAN BUCHANAN IN SYDNEY

HARLIN Holdings, the private company of Mr John Elliott, will receive Aus\$200 million (£80 million) less than it once hoped for the sale of part of its 56 per cent stake in Elders IXL, the brewer.

Under a revised agreement, Asahi the Japanese brewer, will pay Aus\$760 million, or \$2 a share for 17 per cent of Elders.

But in a statement to the Australian Stock Exchange, Elders said Asahi had agreed to pay another five cents a share if the Elders share price was more than \$Aust1.85 for 20 consecutive trading days before June 30, 1992.

Further five cent instalments would be payable at a share price of Aus\$2 and a maximum Aus\$2.15. This would bring the deal back to the original price of Aus\$2.15 a share at which Asahi was to have bought 19.9 per cent from Harlin. It renegotiated the deal when the Elders share price plummeted.

The statement to the exchange said Asahi would buy a further 2.9 per cent in the market. This is believed to have helped lift the Elders price, which jumped 11 cents to close locally at \$1.35.

Harlin's backers had been briefed on the deal, the statement said. The company confirmed that the transaction had "stabilised" its financial position.

One analyst said most of the backers think there is "a better than even chance that Harlin will pull through now".

BUSINESS ROUNDUP

Consortium optimistic over Manpower deal

THE consortium attempting to buy five businesses off Manpower, the former Blue Arrow, including the Brook Street employment agency, is optimistic that the deal can be concluded next week.

"As every day goes by it's looking more likely. I detect a spirit among all the parties involved that they want to do a deal," said a member of the consortium. The consortium, which includes Prudential Venture Managers, Charterhouse Development Capital and Chase Manhattan Bank, announced earlier this month that the deal, initially at an agreed price of £106 million, had hit a snag over financing. The buyers, led by the Brook Street management team, have sought a lower price for the businesses.

Profits fall at Beradin

PRE-TAX profits at Beradin Holdings, the plantations and investment company, fell from £114,000 to £44,000 in the six months to end-June. Turnover declined from £374,000 to £341,000. Earnings slipped from 0.47p to 0.20p. As before, there is no interim dividend. The company said palm oil prices had been at depressed levels so far this year.

ASB reports £78,000 loss

ASB Barnett Kinnings, the advertising and recruitment group run by Bob Holt, former chief executive of Tottenham Hotspur, turned in a pre-tax loss of £78,000 in the six months to end-June, against profits of £111,000 last time. Turnover declined from £780,000 to £588,000. There is a 1.9p loss per share, against earnings of 2.1p previously. Once again, there is no interim dividend.

Whinney takes a fall

WHINNEY Mackay-Lewis, the USM architectural practice that made an unhappy foray into project management, has reported a halving in pre-tax profits from £786,000 to £362,000 for the year to end-April. Operating profits fell 20 per cent to £978,000, while the interest charge increased by 38 per cent to £616,000.

Jeremy Mackay-Lewis, the chairman, said the main reason for the decline was the disappointing eight-month contribution from Johnson Jackson Jeff, the project management consultancy now demerged from the group. A final dividend of 0.4p makes 2p (4.6p).

Haden buys for £7.2m

HADEN MacLellan Holdings is buying Haden Engineering (Haden Australia) for Aus\$18 million (£7.2 million). Haden Australia, sold to BICC in 1986, made pre-tax profits of Aus\$4.5 million in the year to end-December 1989. Haden MacLellan expects to recommend a final dividend of 5p a share for the year to end-December, making a total 8p (7p) for the year.

Anglovaal lifts earnings

ANGLOVAAL Group, the South African mining house, lifted consolidated earnings 30 per cent to R238 million (£48m) in the year ended June, despite a depressed local economy. Dividend payments for the year are 92 cents (76 cents), covered 5.8 times. Anglovaal says dividend income from gold mining investments failed, for the first time in many years, to show an increase.

Walker passes payout

THE housing market has produced another casualty, with JO Walker & Co, the timber, wallboard and plywood importer, passing its interim dividend after recording a £22,000 pre-tax loss in the six months to end-June, compared with £49,000 profits previously. Turnover slipped from £8.29 million to £7.46 million. There is a 2.7p loss per share, (3.9p earnings). The interim dividend was 2p last time.

The company said the continuing decline in the housing market, a deepening general recession and high interest rates had considerably influenced turnover and profitability.

Hong Kong banks cut prime rate to 10%

From LULU YU IN HONG KONG

BANKS in Hong Kong have decided to cut their prime lending rate by half a point to 10 per cent from Monday. Deposit rates have been cut by the same amount.

The prime rate reduction reflects an easing of short-term interest rates and a narrowing gap between the growth in Hong Kong dollar loans and deposits.

Mr Paul Selway-Swift, chairman of the Hong Kong

Association of Banks, said: "It is a fine tuning rather than a sudden change in direction on interest rates. If this leads to a sharp growth in Hong Kong dollar advances, then we will have to reconsider the situation."

The last time interest rates were lowered, pushing down the mortgage rate, was in August, when the prime rate was cut by one point to 10.5 per cent.

Regulators act in best interests of the water supply industry

As the privatised water industry comes up to its first anniversary of freedom, shares in the ten companies are showing evidence of neglect verging on stress. This is partly explained by the publicity bombardment in preparation for the bargain privatisation sale of the 12 area electricity companies in December. But the wobble in the water market is not down to electricity alone. There are two other important factors.

Some of the publicity generated by and around the water companies themselves has prompted a bleak assessment of their merits and a creeping concern with Labour's lead in the public opinion polls has set in. The Eastbourne by-election result, which promptly took £50 off the water package yesterday morning, adds to the anxiety.

According to *Looking to the Future*, the Labour party regards water as "a priority for a return to the public sector", leans toward putting the industry under the control of newly elected regional authorities and is prepared to pay "a fair market price for any equity rights which we wish to acquire". Assuming Labour does form the next government, my guess is that the priority that will be given to changing the ownership of water will be determined not by doctrinaire socialists but by the companies' performance and the effectiveness of the existing regulatory regime.

The industry's recent publicity, on the surface, has not been good. The government has ordered another enquiry into the water poisoning incident at Camelford, Cornwall, in July 1988, when the water was found to contain aluminium up to 6,000 times the permitted European Community limit. South West Water will appear at Exeter crown court in December on "three charges".

The National Rivers Authority has decided to prosecute five of the privatised companies, and is considering prosecuting the other five, for



alleged failures in sewage treatment works.

The companies put the failures down to inadequate investment in the years before privatisation, when the political pressures, local and national, were not on improving the condition of the industry but on keeping down charges to customers and electors alike. As part of privatisation, the companies are committed to investing £26 billion over ten years to bring plant up to required standards.

Nearer to the stock market's pocket is the action of the regulator, Ian Byatt, director general of water services, in making it clear to the water companies that if they do fall behind meeting standards for sewage effluent and drinking water they must not expect to increase their charges by as much as the pricing formula permits. The price regime allows them to raise prices by the rate of inflation plus a factor (the K factor), which is different for each company, linked with the cost of financing planned capital investment. Of the 39 companies (ten privatised and 29 private) nine, including two of the ten quoted companies, have been invited to think about not raising prices in the next year or two by the maximum permitted amount. Deferring increases would, of course, have an adverse impact on profits.

Both the action of the National Rivers Authority and especially the intervention of Mr Byatt are less a slur on the water supply industry than an encouraging sign that the regulatory system is working as the legislators and prospectus writers intended that it should. They are bull, not bear, points for the political figure of the privatised

companies. It is too early for investors in water stocks to let politics upset their stomachs. They should concentrate more on management performance.

Enter the suave, cultivated and ambitious John Bellak, ardent Tory and birdwatcher, and chairman of Severn Trent, third in size as a water provider but first, or aiming to be first, in entrepreneurial vigour and management excellence.

Yielding to his passion for waste disposal, he bid 100p a share on September 22 for Caird Group, the fastest-growing company in the business. The timing was opportunistic. Poor results had driven the Caird price down to 65p, a long way from its July peak of 234p. Not surprisingly, Severn Trent had no difficulty in taking its stake, through the market, to a shade under 30 per cent.

Mr Bellak was home and dry — until Caird's defence document revealed some interesting and unusual accounting methods and a shrunken profits forecast which not even KPMG Peat Marwick McLintock, Caird's auditor, was prepared to endorse without qualification. A former Dundee property company, Caird was raised to its present status by chairman, Peter Linacre, the chairman, who, from the time he joined in 1987, made more than 50 acquisitions, each one seemingly better than the last.

At the time of writing, Severn Trent had still to say how it intends to remove the egg from its face: drop the bid and walk away; make a lower bid; or retain its stake in Caird, with a view to returning when the shrouds of mystery have lifted.

Whatever the chosen course, the Bellak strategy of buying into higher margin businesses to add sparkle to water has taken a knock, though perhaps not as heavy as the blow to his self-esteem.

The ranking of the ten companies will be clearer from October 30 onwards, when Thames opens the interim results and dividend season.

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WALL STREET

Strong start for Dow

New York
Dow Jones Industrial Average rose 24.48 points to 2,481.49.
The Hang Seng index, which touched the 3,000-point resistance level at midday, closed 41.43 points up at 2,991.95.
Frankfurt - German shares ended a fairly quiet trading session with the 30-share DAX index ending 12.02 points higher at 1,482.09.
Sydney - The All-Ordinaries index closed 13.4 points up at 1,368.6.

Company	Price	Change	Company	Price	Change
Alcoa	42 1/2	+1/2	Boeing	58 1/2	+1/2
American	32 1/2	+1/2	Chrysler	24 1/2	+1/2
AT&T	128 1/2	+1/2	Eastman	34 1/2	+1/2
Bell	128 1/2	+1/2	Exxon	42 1/2	+1/2
Boeing	58 1/2	+1/2	General	34 1/2	+1/2
Chrysler	24 1/2	+1/2	IBM	128 1/2	+1/2
Eastman	34 1/2	+1/2	Johnson	24 1/2	+1/2
Exxon	42 1/2	+1/2	McDonald	24 1/2	+1/2
General	34 1/2	+1/2	Merck	24 1/2	+1/2
IBM	128 1/2	+1/2	Microsoft	24 1/2	+1/2
Johnson	24 1/2	+1/2	Motorola	24 1/2	+1/2
McDonald	24 1/2	+1/2	Northern	24 1/2	+1/2
Merck	24 1/2	+1/2	Oracle	24 1/2	+1/2
Microsoft	24 1/2	+1/2	Sealed Air	24 1/2	+1/2
Motorola	24 1/2	+1/2	Spacelabs	24 1/2	+1/2
Northern	24 1/2	+1/2	Texas Instruments	24 1/2	+1/2
Oracle	24 1/2	+1/2	United Technologies	24 1/2	+1/2
Sealed Air	24 1/2	+1/2	Veritas	24 1/2	+1/2
Spacelabs	24 1/2	+1/2	Wendell	24 1/2	+1/2
Texas Instruments	24 1/2	+1/2	World Wide	24 1/2	+1/2
United Technologies	24 1/2	+1/2	Yale	24 1/2	+1/2
Veritas	24 1/2	+1/2	Zenith	24 1/2	+1/2
Wendell	24 1/2	+1/2			
World Wide	24 1/2	+1/2			
Yale	24 1/2	+1/2			
Zenith	24 1/2	+1/2			

STOCK MARKET

Shares shrug off the chill breeze from Eastbourne

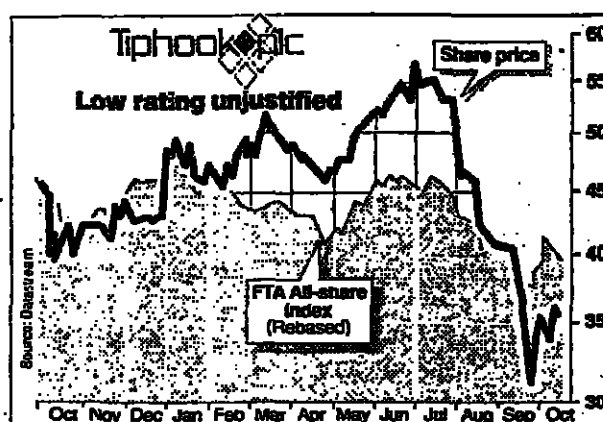
The equity market cast aside political worries and the chancellor's latest warning about the economy and took its lead from Wall Street.

An early fall of 11 points in the FT-SE 100 index was replaced by a rise of almost 18 points as New York opened strongly, extending Thursday's 65-point lead on the news that the Senate had agreed cuts to the American budget which it is hoped will lead to an early cut in the prime rate. But best gains in London were not always held and the index finished only 6.4 higher at 2,089.0 - a fall on the account of 54.9. The FT 30-share index rose 3.4 to 1,621.5.

Government securities finished more than 1/2% lower at the longer end of flat trading. Among blue chips, the best gains were seen among the dollar earners. Glaxo rose 6p to 765p, Reuters 11p to 701p and BAT Industries 13p to 548p. Even ICI rose 7p to 823p ahead of third-quarter figures on Thursday.

Turnover of 464 million shares was artificially boosted by bed-and-breakfast trades carried out to establish losses. Several large lines of stock went through the market, including 2.5 million Standard Chartered, down 2p to 262p, 1.1 million Rank Organisation, down 4p to 635p, 6.3 million Next, up 2p to 32p, 2.4 million Rascal Electronic, 6p better at 154p, and 1.6 million Trafalgar House, 4p lower at 193p.

The government deficit in Northern Ireland 3p to 230p, after 227p, North West 4p to 226p, after 223p, Severn Trent 1p to 196p, after 193p, South West 7p to 220p, Thames 3p to 226p, after 225p, Welsh 7p to 241p, and Yorkshire 6p to 234p. The water package also tumbled 30p to £22. Only Wessex, 1p up at 219p, and Southern, a similar amount



Westminster Bank, after a disappointing set of third-quarter figures this week from its American subsidiary, John Aiken, the banking analyst, has cut its estimate of pre-tax profits for the current year by £80 million to £360 million.

The forecast takes account of the adjustment in America where there seems to be little likelihood of an improvement in the final quarter. The NatWest share price lost 4p to 255p. There were also small setbacks for Barclays Bank, 1p to 276p, and Lloyds Bank, 1p to 276p. Midland Bank added 2p to 194p.

The insurance sector recovered from a nervous start depressed by reports of soaring claims for subsidence. Sun Alliance rallied strongly to finish 8 1/2p better at 301p. General Accident rose 8p to 470p, after 458p, Guardian Royal Exchange hardened 5p to 188p, and Commercial Union 2 1/2p to 463p.

Davies & Newman, the troubled airline charter group, finished 15p up at 155p on confirmation of this week's report in *The Times* that David James, the trouble-shooter, had been appointed chairman.

MICHAEL CLARK

MAJOR INDICES

New York	Dow Jones	2478.28 (+19.55)
S&P 500	Composite	308.73 (+3.00)
Tokyo	Nikkei	24,481.49 (+114.41)
Hong Kong	Hang Seng	2,991.95 (+41.43)
Amsterdam	AEX	1,482.09 (+12.02)
Frankfurt	DAX	1,482.09 (+12.02)
London	FTSE 100	2,089.00 (+6.40)
London	FTSE 30	1,621.50 (+3.40)
London	FTSE 100	2,089.00 (+6.40)
London	FTSE 30	1,621.50 (+3.40)

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LONDON TRADED OPTIONS

Option	Call	Put	Option	Call	Put
AT&T	128 1/2	128 1/2	Boeing	58 1/2	58 1/2
Bell	128 1/2	128 1/2	Chrysler	24 1/2	24 1/2
Boeing	58 1/2	58 1/2	Eastman	34 1/2	34 1/2
Chrysler	24 1/2	24 1/2	Exxon	42 1/2	42 1/2
Eastman	34 1/2	34 1/2	General	34 1/2	34 1/2
Exxon	42 1/2	42 1/2	IBM	128 1/2	128 1/2
General	34 1/2	34 1/2	Johnson	24 1/2	24 1/2
IBM	128 1/2	128 1/2	McDonald	24 1/2	24 1/2
Johnson	24 1/2	24 1/2	Merck	24 1/2	24 1/2
McDonald	24 1/2	24 1/2	Microsoft	24 1/2	24 1/2
Merck	24 1/2	24 1/2	Motorola	24 1/2	24 1/2
Microsoft	24 1/2	24 1/2	Northern	24 1/2	24 1/2
Motorola	24 1/2	24 1/2	Oracle	24 1/2	24 1/2
Northern	24 1/2	24 1/2	Sealed Air	24 1/2	24 1/2
Oracle	24 1/2	24 1/2	Spacelabs	24 1/2	24 1/2
Sealed Air	24 1/2	24 1/2	Texas Instruments	24 1/2	24 1/2
Spacelabs	24 1/2	24 1/2	United Technologies	24 1/2	24 1/2
Texas Instruments	24 1/2	24 1/2	Veritas	24 1/2	24 1/2
United Technologies	24 1/2	24 1/2	Wendell	24 1/2	24 1/2
Veritas	24 1/2	24 1/2	World Wide	24 1/2	24 1/2
Wendell	24 1/2	24 1/2	Yale	24 1/2	24 1/2
World Wide	24 1/2	24 1/2	Zenith	24 1/2	24 1/2
Yale	24 1/2	24 1/2			
Zenith	24 1/2	24 1/2			

TRADITIONAL OPTIONS

Option	Call	Put	Option	Call	Put
AT&T	128 1/2	128 1/2	Boeing	58 1/2	58 1/2
Bell	128 1/2	128 1/2	Chrysler	24 1/2	24 1/2
Boeing	58 1/2	58 1/2	Eastman	34 1/2	34 1/2
Chrysler	24 1/2	24 1/2	Exxon	42 1/2	42 1/2
Eastman	34 1/2	34 1/2	General	34 1/2	34 1/2
Exxon	42 1/2	42 1/2	IBM	128 1/2	128 1/2
General	34 1/2	34 1/2	Johnson	24 1/2	24 1/2
IBM	128 1/2	128 1/2	McDonald	24 1/2	24 1/2
Johnson	24 1/2	24 1/2	Merck	24 1/2	24 1/2
McDonald	24 1/2	24 1/2	Microsoft	24 1/2	24 1/2
Merck	24 1/2	24 1/2	Motorola	24 1/2	24 1/2
Microsoft	24 1/2	24 1/2	Northern	24 1/2	24 1/2
Motorola	24 1/2	24 1/2	Oracle	24 1/2	24 1/2
Northern	24 1/2	24 1/2	Sealed Air	24 1/2	24 1/2
Oracle	24 1/2	24 1/2	Spacelabs	24 1/2	24 1/2
Sealed Air	24 1/2	24 1/2	Texas Instruments	24 1/2	24 1/2
Spacelabs	24 1/2	24 1/2	United Technologies	24 1/2	24 1/2
Texas Instruments	24 1/2	24 1/2	Veritas	24 1/2	24 1/2
United Technologies	24 1/2	24 1/2	Wendell	24 1/2	24 1/2
Veritas	24 1/2	24 1/2	World Wide	24 1/2	24 1/2
Wendell	24 1/2	24 1/2	Yale	24 1/2	24 1/2
World Wide	24 1/2	24 1/2	Zenith	24 1/2	24 1/2
Yale	24 1/2	24 1/2			
Zenith	24 1/2	24 1/2			

UNLISTED SECURITIES

Company	Price	Change	Company	Price	Change
Alcoa	42 1/2	+1/2	Boeing	58 1/2	+1/2
American	32 1/2	+1/2	Chrysler	24 1/2	+1/2
AT&T	128 1/2	+1/2	Eastman	34 1/2	+1/2
Bell	128 1/2	+1/2	Exxon	42 1/2	+1/2
Boeing	58 1/2	+1/2	General	34 1/2	+1/2
Chrysler	24 1/2	+1/2	IBM	128 1/2	+1/2
Eastman	34 1/2	+1/2	Johnson	24 1/2	+1/2
Exxon	42 1/2	+1/2	McDonald	24 1/2	+1/2
General	34 1/2	+1/2	Merck	24 1/2	+1/2
IBM	128 1/2	+1/2	Microsoft	24 1/2	+1/2
Johnson	24 1/2	+1/2	Motorola	24 1/2	+1/2
McDonald	24 1/2	+1/2	Northern	24 1/2	+1/2
Merck	24 1/2	+1/2	Oracle	24 1/2	+1/2
Microsoft	24 1/2	+1/2	Sealed Air	24 1/2	+1/2
Motorola	24 1/2	+1/2	Spacelabs	24 1/2	+1/2
Northern	24 1/2	+1/2	Texas Instruments	24 1/2	+1/2
Oracle	24 1/2	+1/2	United Technologies	24 1/2	+1/2
Sealed Air	24 1/2	+1/2	Veritas	24 1/2	+1/2
Spacelabs	24 1/2	+1/2	Wendell	24 1/2	+1/2
Texas Instruments	24 1/2	+1/2	World Wide	24 1/2	+1/2
United Technologies	24 1/2	+1/2	Yale	24 1/2	+1/2
Veritas	24 1/2	+1/2	Zenith	24 1/2	+1/2
Wendell	24 1/2	+1/2			
World Wide	24 1/2	+1/2			
Yale	24 1/2	+1/2			
Zenith	24 1/2	+1/2			

INVESTMENT TRUSTS

Company	Price	Change	Company	Price	Change
Alcoa	42 1/2	+1/2	Boeing	58 1/2	+1/2
American	32 1/2	+1/2	Chrysler	24 1/2	+1/2
AT&T	128 1/2	+1/2	Eastman	34 1/2	+1/2
Bell	128 1/2	+1/2	Exxon	42 1/2	+1/2
Boeing	58 1/2	+1/2	General	34 1/2	+1/2
Chrysler	24 1/2	+1/2	IBM	128 1/2	+1/2
Eastman	34 1/2	+1/2	Johnson	24 1/2	+1/2
Exxon	42 1/2	+1/2	McDonald	24 1/2	+1/2
General	34 1/2	+1/2	Merck	24 1/2	+1/2
IBM	128 1/2	+1/2	Microsoft	24 1/2	+1/2
Johnson	24 1/2	+1/2	Motorola	24 1/2	+1/2
McDonald	24 1/2	+1/2	Northern	24 1/2	+1/2
Merck	24 1/2	+1/2	Oracle	24 1/2	+1/2
Microsoft	24 1/2	+1/2	Sealed Air	24 1/2	+1/2
Motorola	24 1/2	+1/2	Spacelabs	24 1/2	+1/2
Northern	24 1/2	+1/2	Texas Instruments	24 1/2	+1/2
Oracle	24 1/2	+1/2	United Technologies	24 1/2	+1/2
Sealed Air	24 1/2	+1/2	Veritas	24 1/2	+1/2
Spacelabs	24 1/2	+1/2	Wendell	24 1/2	+1/2
Texas Instruments	24 1/2	+1/2	World Wide	24 1/2	+1/2
United Technologies	24 1/2	+1/2	Yale	24 1/2	+1/2
Veritas	24 1/2	+1/2	Zenith	24 1/2	+1/2
Wendell	24 1/2	+1/2			
World Wide	24 1/2	+1/2			
Yale	24 1/2	+1/2			
Zenith	24 1/2	+1/2			

THIRD MARKET

Alcoa	42 1/2	+1/2	Boeing	58 1/2	+1/2
American	32 1/2	+1/2	Chrysler	24 1/2	+1/2
AT&T	128 1/2	+1/2	Eastman	34 1/2	+1/2
Bell	128 1/2	+1/2	Exxon	42 1/2	+1/2
Boeing	58 1/2	+1/2	General	34 1/2	+1/2
Chrysler	24 1/2	+1/2	IBM	128 1/2	+1/2
Eastman	34 1/2	+1/2	Johnson	24	
Exxon	42 1/2	+1/2	Kimberly	24	
General	34 1/2	+1/2	McDonald	24	
IBM	128 1/2	+1/2	Merck	24	
Johnson	24		Novartis	24	
Kimberly	24		Pfizer	24	
McDonald	24		Roche	24	
Merck	24		Schering	24	
Novartis	24		Schwarz	24	
Pfizer	24		Schwarz	24	
Roche	24		Schwarz	24	
Schering	24		Schwarz	24	
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Schwarz	24		Schwarz	24	
Schwarz	24		Schwarz	24	
Schwarz	24		Schwarz	24	
Schwarz	24</				

Portfolio

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WEEKLY DIVIDEND
£8,000

Prices recorded are at market close. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Where one price is quoted, it is a middle price. Changes, yields and price earnings ratios are based on middle prices. (aa) denotes Alpha Stocks.

INSURANC

1930	Low	Company	Price Bids	Offer	Grains Ch'ngs per p	Vol p	Yrs FYE
OVERSEAS TRADERS							
50	360	Amsterdam	265	270	17.0	4.7	5.1
100	360	Amsterdam	265	247	16	1.1	5.2
150	360	Amsterdam	86	74	1	8.8	5.3
160	360	Amsterdam	100	91	1	8.8	5.3
180	360	Amsterdam (M)	230	230	16.6	8.3	10.4
190	360	Amsterdam	230	230	16.6	8.3	10.4
200	360	Amsterdam	230	230	16.6	8.3	10.4
210	360	Amsterdam	230	230	16.6	8.3	10.4
220	360	Amsterdam	230	230	16.6	8.3	10.4
230	360	Amsterdam	230	230	16.6	8.3	10.4
240	360	Amsterdam	230	230	16.6	8.3	10.4
250	360	Amsterdam	230	230	16.6	8.3	10.4
260	360	Amsterdam	230	230	16.6	8.3	10.4
270	360	Amsterdam	230	230	16.6	8.3	10.4
280	360	Amsterdam	230	230	16.6	8.3	10.4
290	360	Amsterdam	230	230	16.6	8.3	10.4
300	360	Amsterdam	230	230	16.6	8.3	10.4
310	360	Amsterdam	230	230	16.6	8.3	10.4
320	360	Amsterdam	230	230	16.6	8.3	10.4
330	360	Amsterdam	230	230	16.6	8.3	10.4
340	360	Amsterdam	230	230	16.6	8.3	10.4
350	360	Amsterdam	230	230	16.6	8.3	10.4
360	360	Amsterdam	230	230	16.6	8.3	10.4
370	360	Amsterdam	230	230	16.6	8.3	10.4
380	360	Amsterdam	230	230	16.6	8.3	10.4
390	360	Amsterdam	230	230	16.6	8.3	10.4
400	360	Amsterdam	230	230	16.6	8.3	10.4
410	360	Amsterdam	230	230	16.6	8.3	10.4
420	360	Amsterdam	230	230	16.6	8.3	10.4
430	360	Amsterdam	230	230	16.6	8.3	10.4
440	360	Amsterdam	230	230	16.6	8.3	10.4
450	360	Amsterdam	230	230	16.6	8.3	10.4
460	360	Amsterdam	230	230	16.6	8.3	10.4
470	360	Amsterdam	230	230	16.6	8.3	10.4
480	360	Amsterdam	230	230	16.6	8.3	10.4
490	360	Amsterdam	230	230	16.6	8.3	10.4
500	360	Amsterdam	230	230	16.6	8.3	10.4
510	360	Amsterdam	230	230	16.6	8.3	10.4
520	360	Amsterdam	230	230	16.6	8.3	10.4
530	360	Amsterdam	230	230	16.6	8.3	10.4
540	360	Amsterdam	230	230	16.6	8.3	10.4
550	360	Amsterdam	230	230	16.6	8.3	10.4
560	360	Amsterdam	230	230	16.6	8.3	10.4
570	360	Amsterdam	230	230	16.6	8.3	10.4
580	360	Amsterdam	230	230	16.6	8.3	10.4
590	360	Amsterdam	230	230	16.6	8.3	10.4
600	360	Amsterdam	230	230	16.6	8.3	10.4
610	360	Amsterdam	230	230	16.6	8.3	10.4
620	360	Amsterdam	230	230	16.6	8.3	10.4
630	360	Amsterdam	230	230	16.6	8.3	10.4
640	360	Amsterdam	230	230	16.6	8.3	10.4
650	360	Amsterdam	230	230	16.6	8.3	10.4
660	360	Amsterdam	230	230	16.6	8.3	10.4
670	360	Amsterdam	230	230	16.6	8.3	10.4
680	360	Amsterdam	230	230	16.6	8.3	10.4
690	360	Amsterdam	230	230	16.6	8.3	10.4
700	360	Amsterdam	230	230	16.6	8.3	10.4
710	360	Amsterdam	230	230	16.6	8.3	10.4
720	360	Amsterdam	230	230	16.6	8.3	10.4
730	360	Amsterdam	230	230	16.6	8.3	10.4
740	360	Amsterdam	230	230	16.6	8.3	10.4
750	360	Amsterdam	230	230	16.6	8.3	10.4
760	360	Amsterdam	230	230	16.6	8.3	10.4
770	360	Amsterdam	230	230	16.6	8.3	10.4
780	360	Amsterdam	230	230	16.6	8.3	10.4
790	360	Amsterdam	230	230	16.6	8.3	10.4
800	360	Amsterdam	230	230	16.6	8.3	10.4
810	360	Amsterdam	230	230	16.6	8.3	10.4
820	360	Amsterdam	230	230	16.6	8.3	10.4
830	360	Amsterdam	230	230	16.6	8.3	10.4
840	360	Amsterdam	230	230	16.6	8.3	10.4
850	360	Amsterdam	230	230	16.6	8.3	10.4
860	360	Amsterdam	230	230	16.6	8.3	10.4
870	360	Amsterdam	230	230	16.6	8.3	10.4
880	360	Amsterdam	230	230	16.6	8.3	10.4
890	360	Amsterdam	230	230	16.6	8.3	10.4
900	360	Amsterdam	230	230	16.6	8.3	10.4
910	360	Amsterdam	230	230	16.6	8.3	10.4
920	360	Amsterdam	230	230	16.6	8.3	10.4
930	360	Amsterdam	230	230	16.6	8.3	10.4
940	360	Amsterdam	230	230	16.6	8.3	10.4
950	360	Amsterdam	230	230	16.6	8.3	10.4
960	360	Amsterdam	230	230	16.6	8.3	10.4
970	360	Amsterdam	230	230	16.6	8.3	10.4
980	360	Amsterdam	230	230	16.6	8.3	10.4
990	360	Amsterdam	230	230	16.6	8.3	10.4
1000	360	Amsterdam	230	230	16.6	8.3	10.4
PAPER, PRINT, ADVERTISING							
158	270	81 APY	85	90	+2	8.9	10.2
278	270	Robert Mott	192	192	0	16.0	5.1
279	270	Robert Mott	192	192	0	16.0	5.1
14	100	Adcock Bros	15	15	1	3.8	7.4
15	100	Adcock Bros	15	15	1	3.8	7.4
16	100	Adcock Bros	15	15	1	3.8	7.4
17	100	Adcock Bros	15	15	1	3.8	7.4
18	100	Adcock Bros	15	15	1	3.8	7.4
19	100	Adcock Bros	15	15	1	3.8	7.4
20	100	Adcock Bros	15	15	1	3.8	7.4
21	100	Adcock Bros	15	15	1	3.8	7.4
22	100	Adcock Bros	15	15	1	3.8	7.4
23	100	Adcock Bros	15	15	1	3.8	7.4
24	100	Adcock Bros	15	15	1	3.8	7.4
25	100	Adcock Bros	15	15	1	3.8	7.4
26	100	Adcock Bros	15	15	1	3.8	7.4
27	100	Adcock Bros	15	15	1	3.8	7.4
28	100	Adcock Bros	15	15	1	3.8	7.4
29	100	Adcock Bros	15	15	1	3.8	7.4
30	100	Adcock Bros	15	15	1	3.8	7.4
31	100	Adcock Bros	15	15	1	3.8	7.4
32	100	Adcock Bros	15	15	1	3.8	7.4
33	100	Adcock Bros	15	15	1	3.8	7.4
34	100	Adcock Bros	15	15	1	3.8	7.4
35	100	Adcock Bros	15	15	1	3.8	7.4
36	100	Adcock Bros	15	15	1	3.8	7.4
37	100	Adcock Bros	15	15	1	3.8	7.4
38	100	Adcock Bros	15	15	1	3.8	7.4
39	100	Adcock Bros	15	15	1	3.8	7.4
40	100	Adcock Bros	15	15	1	3.8	7.4
41	100	Adcock Bros	15	15	1	3.8	7.4
42	100	Adcock Bros	15	15	1	3.8	7.4
43	100	Adcock Bros	15	15	1	3.8	7.4
44	100	Adcock Bros	15	15	1	3.8	7.4
45	100	Adcock Bros	15	15	1	3.8	7.4
46	100	Adcock Bros	15	15	1	3.8	7.4
47	100	Adcock Bros	15	15	1	3.8	7.4
48	100	Adcock Bros	15	15	1	3.8	7.4
49	100	Adcock Bros	15	15	1	3.8	7.4
50	100	Adcock Bros	15	15	1	3.8	7.4
51	100	Adcock Bros	15	15	1	3.8	7.4
52	100	Adcock Bros	15	15	1	3.8	7.4
53	100	Adcock Bros	15	15	1	3.8	7.4
54	100	Adcock Bros	15	15	1	3.8	7.4
55	100	Adcock Bros	15	15	1	3.8	7.4
56	100	Adcock Bros	15	15	1	3.8	7.4
57	100	Adcock Bros	15	15	1	3.8	7.4
58	100	Adcock Bros	15	15	1	3.8	7.4
59	100	Adcock Bros	15	15	1	3.8	7.4
60	100	Adcock Bros	15	15	1	3.8	7.4
61	100	Adcock Bros	15	15	1	3.8	7.4
62	100	Adcock Bros	15	15	1	3.8	7.4
63	100	Adcock Bros	15	15	1	3.8	7.4
64	100	Adcock Bros	15	15	1	3.8	7.4
65	100	Adcock Bros	15	15	1	3.8	7.4
66	100	Adcock Bros	15	15	1	3.8	7.4
67	100	Adcock Bros	15	15	1	3.8	7.4
68	100	Adcock Bros	15	15	1	3.8	7.4
69	100	Adcock Bros	15	15	1	3.8	7.4
70	100	Adcock Bros	15	15	1	3.8	7.4
71	100	Adcock Bros	15	15	1	3.8	7.4
72	100	Adcock Bros	15	15	1	3.8	7.4
73	100	Adcock Bros	15	15	1	3.8	7.4
74	100	Adcock Bros	15	15	1	3.8	7.4
75	100	Adcock Bros	15	15	1	3.8	7.4
76	100	Adcock Bros	15	15	1	3.8	7.4
77	100	Adcock Bros	15	15	1	3.8	7.4
78	100	Adcock Bros	15	15	1	3.8	7.4
79	100	Adcock Bros	15	15	1	3.8	7.4
80	100	Adcock Bros	15	15	1	3.8	7.4
81	100	Adcock Bros	15	15	1	3.8	7.4
82	100	Adcock Bros	15	15	1	3.8	7.4
83	100	Adcock Bros	15	15	1	3.8	7.4
84	100	Adcock Bros	15	15	1	3.8	7.4
85	100	Adcock Bros	15	15	1	3.8	7.4
86	100	Adcock Bros	15	15	1	3.8	7.4
87	100	Adcock Bros	15	15	1	3.8	7.4
88	100	Adcock Bros	15	15	1	3.8	7.4
89	100	Adcock Bros	15	15	1	3.8	7.4
90	100	Adcock Bros	15	15	1	3.8	7.4
91	100	Adcock Bros	15	15	1	3.8	7.4
92	100	Adcock Bros	15	15	1	3.8	7.4
93	100	Adcock Bros	15	15	1	3.8	7.4
94	100	Adcock Bros	15	15	1	3.8	7.4
95	100	Adcock Bros	15	15	1	3.8	7.4
96	100	Adcock Bros	15	15	1	3.8	7.4
97	100	Adcock Bros	15	15	1	3.8	7.4
98	100	Adcock Bros	15	15	1	3.8	7.4
99	100	Adcock Bros	15	15	1	3.8	7.4
100	100	Adcock Bros	15	15	1	3.8	7.4
PROPERTY							
113	78	Walter Lee	82	87	+2	4.4	45
120	360	Arizona	115	125	0	5	25
130	360	Arizona	115	125	0	5	25
140	360	Arizona	115	125	0	5	25
150	360	Arizona	115	125	0	5	25
160	360	Arizona	115	125	0	5	25
170	360	Arizona	115	125	0	5	25
180	360	Arizona	115	125	0	5	25
190	360	Arizona	115	125	0	5	25
200	360	Arizona	115				

227	100	Breders	95	105	45	45	47
425	216	Br Land (20)	255	270	70	25	190
191	129	Brandon	143	145	23	59	160
46	31	Burford	32	35	10	29	270
377	322	Cap & Counties	330	340	170	51	148

[illegible]

465	70	Hatcher Aug	25	75	120	17.1	4.5
466	223	Frengere	300	268	-2	18.4	6.2
320	105	Granger	105	125	+10	7.0	5.1
308	180	Gr Portland	208	216	+10	12.0	5.6
461	328	Grayson	340	345	+5	6.9	2.0
464	34	Hadwood Gp	24	-	-	-	-
54	38	Hammors Countryd	46	45	-1	Q18	0.2
540	540	Hannover	463	463	0	28.8	4.4

177	137	Herring Sea	749	150	-	8.3	3.7	7.9
250	225	Jocelyn	225	275	-	4.0	1.6	4.9
549	444	Land Sec (air)	503	565	-2	22.7	4.5	20.8
156	8	Lon & Mero	5	10	-	8.9	-	0.4
47	22	Lon Secomes	21	23	-1	2.0	9.1	2.9
548	413	MEPC (air)	473	478	-2	23.3	4.9	17.2
293	17	Milwaukee	15	20	-	-	-	-

[illegible]

SHOES, LEATHER						
76	37	Headlam	44-1	32	78	65
198	138	Leather, Western	175	120-6	141	73
138	46	" "	52	11	20	4
143	110	Strap & Fopen				
343	278	Style	220	256	120	42
						39.1

TEXTILES							
28	13	Acch	124	144	-	#	13.9
361	360	Alced Ties	361	37	-	4.5	13.1
56	56	Buckskin (A)	29	55	-	4	16.2
68	49	Robes, G	51	51	-	13.5	13.5
191	111	M	133	120-2	-	11.3	10.2
140	37	DTG G	87	9	-	10.7	4.8
24	200	Chambray Ties	232	238-3	-	12.7	12.7
127	127	Denim	128	124	-	12.0	8.2
25	25	Thermoset	113	113	-	11	14.1

38	44	Belgium	1974	1975	1976	1977	1978	1979	1980	1981	1982	1983	1984	1985	1986	1987	1988	1989	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030	2031	2032	2033	2034	2035	2036	2037	2038	2039	2040	2041	2042	2043	2044	2045	2046	2047	2048	2049	2050	2051	2052	2053	2054	2055	2056	2057	2058	2059	2060	2061	2062	2063	2064	2065	2066	2067	2068	2069	2070	2071	2072	2073	2074	2075	2076	2077	2078	2079	2080	2081	2082	2083	2084	2085	2086	2087	2088	2089	2090	2091	2092	2093	2094	2095	2096	2097	2098	2099	2100	2101	2102	2103	2104	2105	2106	2107	2108	2109	2110	2111	2112	2113	2114	2115	2116	2117	2118	2119	2120	2121	2122	2123	2124	2125	2126	2127	2128	2129	2130	2131	2132	2133	2134	2135	2136	2137	2138	2139	2140	2141	2142	2143	2144	2145	2146	2147	2148	2149	2150	2151	2152	2153	2154	2155	2156	2157	2158	2159	2160	2161	2162	2163	2164	2165	2166	2167	2168	2169	2170	2171	2172	2173	2174	2175	2176	2177	2178	2179	2180	2181	2182	2183	2184	2185	2186	2187	2188	2189	2190	2191	2192	2193	2194	2195	2196	2197	2198	2199	2200	2201	2202	2203	2204	2205	2206	2207	2208	2209	2210	2211	2212	2213	2214	2215	2216	2217	2218	2219	2220	2221	2222	2223	2224	2225	2226	2227	2228	2229	2230	2231	2232	2233	2234	2235	2236	2237	2238	2239	2240	2241	2242	2243	2244	2245	2246	2247	2248	2249	2250	2251	2252	2253	2254	2255	2256	2257	2258	2259	2260	2261	2262	2263	2264	2265	2266	2267	2268	2269	2270	2271	2272	2273	2274	2275	2276	2277	2278	2279	2280	2281	2282	2283	2284	2285	2286	2287	2288	2289	2290	2291	2292	2293	2294	2295	2296	2297	2298	2299	2300	2301	2302	2303	2304	2305	2306	2307	2308	2309	2310	2311	2312	2313	2314	2315	2316	2317	2318	2319	2320	2321	2322	2323	2324	2325	2326	2327	2328	2329	2330	2331	2332	2333	2334	2335	2336	2337	2338	2339	2340	2341	2342	2343	2344	2345	2346	2347	2348	2349	2350	2351	2352	2353	2354	2355	2356	2357	2358	2359	2360	2361	2362	2363	2364	2365	2366	2367	2368	2369	2370	2371	2372	2373	2374	2375	2376	2377	2378	2379	2380	2381	2382	2383	2384	2385	2386	2387	2388	2389	2390	2391	2392	2393	2394	2395	2396	2397	2398	2399	2400	2401	2402	2403	2404	2405	2406	2407	2408	2409	2410	2411	2412	2413	2414	2415	2416	2417	2418	2419	2420	2421	2422	2423	2424	2425	2426	2427	2428	2429	2430	2431	2432	2433	2434	2435	2436	2437	2438	2439	2440	2441	2442	2443	2444	2445	2446	2447	2448	2449	2450	2451	2452	2453	2454	2455	2456	2457	2458	2459	2460	2461	2462	2463	2464	2465	2466	2467	2468	2469	2470	2471	2472	2473	2474	2475	2476	2477	2478	2479	2480	2481	2482	2483	2484	2485	2486	2487	2488	2489	2490	2491	2492	2493	2494	2495	2496	2497	2498	2499	2500	2501	2502	2503	2504	2505	2506	2507	2508	2509	2510	2511	2512	2513	2514	2515	2516	2517	2518	2519	2520	2521	2522	2523	2524	2525	2526	2527	2528	2529	2530	2531	2532	2533	2534	2535	2536	2537	2538	2539	2540	2541	2542	2543	2544	2545	2546	2547	2548	2549	2550	2551	2552	2553	2554	2555	2556	2557	2558	2559	2560	2561	2562	2563	2564	2565	2566	2567	2568	2569	2570	2571	2572	2573	2574	2575	2576	2577	2578	2579	2580	2581	2582	2583	2584	2585	2586	2587	2588	2589	2590	2591	2592	2593	2594	2595	2596	2597	2598	2599	2600	2601	2602	2603	2604	2605	2606	2607	2608	2609	2610	2611	2612	2613	2614	2615	2616	2617	2618	2619	2620	2621	2622	2623	2624	2625	2626	2627	2628	2629	2630	2631	2632	2633	2634	2635	2636	2637	2638	2639	2640	2641	2642	2643	2644	2645	2646	2647	2648	2649	2650	2651	2652	2653	2654	2655	2656	2657	2658	2659	2660	2661	2662	2663	2664	2665	2666	2667	2668	2669	2670	2671	2672	2673	2674	2675	2676	2677	2678	2679	2680	2681	2682	2683	2684	2685	2686	2687	2688	2689	2690	2691	2692	2693	2694	2695	2696	2697	2698	2699	2700	2701	2702	2703	2704	2705	2706	2707	2708	2709	2710	2711	2712	2713	2714	2715	2716	2717	2718	2719	2720	2721	2722	2723	2724	2725	2726	2727	2728	2729	2730	2731	2732	2733	2734	2735	2736	2737	2738	2739	2740	2741	2742	2743	2744	2745	2746	2747	2748	2749	2750	2751	2752	2753	2754	2755	2756	2757	2758	2759	2760	2761	2762	2763	2764	2765	2766	2767	2768	2769	2770	2771	2772	2773	2774	2775	2776	2777	2778	2779	2780	2781	2782	2783	2784	2785	2786	2787	2788	2789	2790	2791	2792	2793	2794	2795	2796	2797	2798	2799	2800	2801	2802	2803	2804	2805	2806	2807	2808	2809	2810	2811	2812	2813	2814	2815	2816	2817	2818	2819	2820	2821	2822	2823	2824	2825	2826	2827	2828	2829	2830	2831	2832	2833	2834	2835	2836	2837	2838	2839	2840	2841	2842	2843	2844	2845	2846	2847	2848	2849	2850	2851	2852	2853	2854	2855	2856	2857	2858	2859	2860	2861	2862	2863	2864	2865	2866	2867	2868	2869	2870	2871	2872	2873	2874	2875	2876	2877	2878	2879	2880	2881	2882	2883	2884	2885	2886	2887	2888	2889	2890	2891	2892	2893	2894	2895	2896	2897	2898	2899	2900	2901	2902	2903	2904	2905	2906	2907	2908	2909	2910	2911	2912	2913	2914	2915	2916	2917	2918	2919	2920	2921	2922	2923	2924	2925	2926	2927	2928	2929	2930	2931	2932	2933	2934	2935	2936	2937	2938	2939	2940	2941	2942	2943	2944	2945	2946	2947	2948	2949	2950	2951	2952	2953	2954	2955	2956	2957	2958	2959	2960	2961	2962	2963	2964	2965	2966	2967	2968	2969	2970	2971	2972	2973	2974	2975	2976	2977	2978	2979	2980	2981	2982	2983	2984	2985	2986	2987	2988	2989	2990	2991	2992	2993	2994	2995	2996	2997	2998	2999	3000	3001	3002	3003	3004	3005	3006	3007	3008	3009	3010	3011	3012	3013	3014	3015	3016	3017	3018	3019	3020	3021	3022	3023	3024	3025	3026	3027	3028	3029	3030	3031	3032	3033	3034	3035	3036	3037	3038	3039	3040	3041	3042	3043	3044	3045	3046	3047	3048	3049	3050	3051	3052	3053	3054	3055	3056	3057	3058	3059	3060	3061	3062	3063	3064	3065	3066	3067	3068	3069	3070	3071	3072	3073	3074	3075	3076	3077	3078	3079	3080	3081	3082	3083	3084	3085	3086	3087	3088	3089	3090	3091	3092	3093	3094	3095	3096	3097	3098	3099	3100	3101	3102	3103	3104	3105	3106	3107	3108	3109	3110	3111	3112	3113	3114	3115	3116	3117	3118	3119	3120	3121	3122	3123	3124	3125	3126	3127	3128	3129	3130	3131	3132	3133	3134	3135	3136	3137	3138	3139	3140	3141	3142	3143	3144	3145	3146	3147	3148	3149	3150	3151	3152	3153	3154	3155	3156	3157	3158	3159	3160	3161	3162	3163	3164	3165	3166	3167	3168	3169	3170	3171	3172	3173	3174	3175	3176	3177	3178	3179	3180	3181	3182	3183	3184	3185	3186	3187	3188	3189	3190	3191	3192	3193	3194	3195	3196	3197	3198	3199	3200	3201	3202	3203	3204	3205	3206	3207	3208	3209	3210	3211	3212	3213	3214	3215	3216	3217	3218	3219	3220	3221	3222	3223	3224	3225	3226	3227	3228	3229	3230	3231	3232	3233	3234	3235	3236	3237	3238	3239	3240	3241	3242	3243	3244	3245	3246	3247	3248	3249	3250	3251	3252	3253	3254	3255	3256	3257	3258	3259	3260	3261	3262	3263	3264	3265	3266	3267	3268	3269	3270	3271	3272	3273	3274	3275	3276	3277	3278	3279	3280	3281	3282	3283	3284	3285	3286	3287	3288	3289	3290	3291	3292	3293	3294	3295	3296	3297	3298	3299	3300	3301	3302	3303	3304	3305	3306	3307	3308	3309	3310	3311	3312	3313	3314	3315	3316	3317	3318	3319	3320	3321	3322	3323	3324	3325	3326	3327	3328	3329	3330	3331	3332	3333	3334	3335	3336	3337	3338	3339	3340	3341	3342	3343	3344	3345	3346	
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133	191	Asapic Dr Porto	203	210	+1	8.0	43	9.1
136	206	BAI Apt	203	210	+3	15.3	40	9.3
140	230	136th St	145	147	+4	11.8	81	4.9
142	234	136th St	145	147	+4	11.8	81	4.9
143	235	136th St	145	147	+4	11.8	81	4.9
144	236	136th St	145	147	+4	11.8	81	4.9
145	237	136th St	145	147	+4	11.8	81	4.9
146	238	136th St	145	147	+4	11.8	81	4.9
147	239	136th St	145	147	+4	11.8	81	4.9
148	240	136th St	145	147	+4	11.8	81	4.9
149	241	136th St	145	147	+4	11.8	81	4.9
150	242	136th St	145	147	+4	11.8	81	4.9
151	243	136th St	145	147	+4	11.8	81	4.9
152	244	136th St	145	147	+4	11.8	81	4.9
153	245	136th St	145	147	+4	11.8	81	4.9
154	246	136th St	145	147	+4	11.8	81	4.9
155	247	136th St	145	147	+4	11.8	81	4.9
156	248	136th St	145	147	+4	11.8	81	4.9
157	249	136th St	145	147	+4	11.8	81	4.9
158	250	136th St	145	147	+4	11.8	81	4.9
159	251	136th St	145	147	+4	11.8	81	4.9
160	252	136th St	145	147	+4	11.8	81	4.9
161	253	136th St	145	147	+4	11.8	81	4.9
162	254	136th St	145	147	+4	11.8	81	4.9
163	255	136th St	145	147	+4	11.8	81	4.9
164	256	136th St	145	147	+4	11.8	81	4.9
165	257	136th St	145	147	+4	11.8	81	4.9
166	258	136th St	145	147	+4	11.8	81	4.9
167	259	136th St	145	147	+4	11.8	81	4.9
168	260	136th St	145	147	+4	11.8	81	4.9
169	261	136th St	145	147	+4	11.8	81	4.9
170	262	136th St	145	147	+4	11.8	81	4.9
171	263	136th St	145	147	+4	11.8	81	4.9
172	264	136th St	145	147	+4	11.8	81	4.9
173	265	136th St	145	147	+4	11.8	81	4.9
174	266	136th St	145	147	+4	11.8	81	4.9
175	267	136th St	145	147	+4	11.8	81	4.9
176	268	136th St	145	147	+4	11.8	81	4.9
177	269	136th St	145	147	+4	11.8	81	4.9
178	270	136th St	145	147	+4	11.8	81	4.9
179	271	136th St	145	147	+4	11.8	81	4.9
180	272	136th St	145	147	+4	11.8	81	4.9
181	273	136th St	145	147	+4	11.8	81	4.9
182	274	136th St	145	147	+4	11.8	81	4.9
183	275	136th St	145	147	+4	11.8	81	4.9
184	276	136th St	145	147	+4	11.8	81	4.9
185	277	136th St	145	147	+4	11.8	81	4.9
186	278	136th St	145	147	+4	11.8	81	4.9
187	279	136th St	145	147	+4	11.8	81	4.9
188	280	136th St	145	147	+4	11.8	81	4.9
189	281	136th St	145	147	+4	11.8	81	4.9
190	282	136th St	145	147	+4	11.8	81	4.9
191	283	136th St	145	147	+4	11.8	81	4.9
192	284	136th St	145	147	+4	11.8	81	4.9
193	285	136th St	145	147	+4	11.8	81	4.9
194	286	136th St	145	147	+4	11.8	81	4.9
195	287	136th St	145	147	+4	11.8	81	4.9
196	288	136th St	145	147	+4	11.8	81	4.9
197	289	136th St	145	147	+4	11.8	81	4.9
198	290	136th St	145	147	+4	11.8	81	4.9
199	291	136th St	145	147	+4	11.8	81	4.9
200	292	136th St	145	147	+4	11.8	81	4.9
201	293	136th St	145	147	+4	11.8	81	4.9
202	294	136th St	145	147	+4	11.8	81	4.9
203	295	136th St	145	147	+4	11.8	81	4.9
204	296	136th St	145	147	+4	11.8	81	4.9
205	297	136th St	145	147	+4	11.8	81	4.9
206	298	136th St	145	147	+4	11.8	81	4.9
207	299	136th St	145	147	+4	11.8	81	4.9
208	300	136th St	145	147	+4	11.8	81	4.9
209	301	136th St	145	147	+4	11.8	81	4.9
210	302	136th St	145	147	+4	11.8	81	4.9
211	303	136th St	145	147	+4	11.8	81	4.9
212	304	136th St	145	147	+4	11.8	81	4.9
213	305	136th St	145	147	+4	11.8	81	4.9
214	306	136th St	145	147	+4	11.8	81	4.9
215	307	136th St	145	147	+4	11.8	81	4.9
216	308	136th St	145	147	+4	11.8	81	4.9
217	309	136th St	145	147	+4	11.8	81	4.9
218	310	136th St	145	147	+4	11.8	81	4.9
219	311	136th St	145	147	+4	11.8	81	4.9
220	312	136th St	145	147	+4	11.8	81	4.9
221	313	136th St	145	147	+4	11.8	81	4.9
222	314	136th St	145	147	+4	11.8	81	4.9
223	315	136th St	145	147	+4	11.8	81	4.9
224	316	136th St	145	147	+4	11.8	81	4.9
225	317	136th St	145	147	+4	11.8	81	4.9
226	318	136th St	145	147	+4	11.8	81	4.9
227	319	136th St	145	147	+4	11.8	81	4.9
228	320	136th St	145	147	+4	11.8	81	4.9
229	321	136th St	145	147	+4	11.8	81	4.9
230	322	136th St	145	147	+4	11.8	81	4.9
231	323	136th St	145	147	+4	11.8	81	4.9
232	324	136th St	145	147	+4	11.8	81	4.9
233	325	136th St	145	147	+4	11.8	81	4.9
234	326	136th St	145	147	+4	11.8	81	4.9
235	327	136th St	145	147	+4	11.8	81	4.9
236	328	136th St	145	147	+4	11.8	81	4.9
237	329	136th St	145	147	+4	11.8	81	4.9
238	330	136th St	145	147	+4	11.8	81	4.9
239	331	136th St	145	147	+4	11.8	81	4.9
240	332	136th St	145	147	+4	11.8	81	4.9
241	333	136th St	145	147	+4	11.8	81	4.9
242	334	136th St	145	147	+4	11.8	81	4.9
243	335	136th St	145	147	+4	11.8	81	4.9
244	336	136th St	145	147	+4	11.8	81	4.9
245	337	136th St	145	147	+4	11.8	81	4.9
246	338	136th St	145	147	+4	11.8	81	4.9
247	339	136th St	145	147	+4	11.8	81	4.9
248	340	136th St	145	147	+4	11.8	81	4.9
249	341	136th St	145	147	+4	11.8	81	4.9
250	342	136th St	145	147	+4	11.8	81	4.9
251	343	136th St	145	147	+4	11.8	81	4.9
252	344	136th St	145	147	+4	11.8	81	4.9
253	345	136th St	145	147	+4	11.8	81	4.9
254	346	136th St	145	147	+4	11.8	81	4.9
255	347	136th St	145	147	+4	11.8	81	4.9
256	348	136th St	145	147	+4	11.8	81	4.9
257	349	136th St	145	147	+4	11.8	81	4.9
258	350	136th St	145	147	+4	11.8	81	4.9
259	351	136th St	145	147	+4	11.8	81	4.9
260	352	136th St	145	147	+4	11.8	81	4.9
261	353	136th St	145	147	+4	11.8	81	4.9
262	354	136th St	145	147	+4	11.8	81	4.9
263	355	136th St	145	147	+4	11.8	81	4.9
264	356	136th St	145	147	+4	11.8	81	4.9
265	357	136th St	145	147	+4	11.8	81	4.9
266	358	136th St	145	147	+4	11.8	81	4.9
267	359	136th St	145	147	+4	11.8	81	4.9
268	360	136th St	145	147	+4	11.8	81	4.9
269	361	136th St	145	147	+4	11.8	81	4.9
270	362	136th St	145	147	+4	11.8	81	4.9
271	363	136th St	145	147	+4	11.8	81	4.9
272	364	136th St	145	147	+4	11.8	81	4.9
273	365	136th St	145	147	+4	11.8	81	4.9
274	366	136th St	145	147	+4	11.8	81	4.9
275	367	136th St	145	147	+4	11.8	81	4.9
276	368	136th St	145	147	+4	11.8	81	4.9
277	369	136th St	145	147	+4	11.8	81	4.9
278	370	136th St	145	147	+4	11.8	81	4.9
279	371	136th St	145	147	+4	11.8	81	4.9
280	372	136th St	145	147	+4	11.8	81	4.9
281	373	136th St	145	147	+4	11.8	81	4.9
282	374	136th St	145	147	+4	11.8	81	4.9
283	375	136th St	145	147	+4	11.8	81	4.9
284	376	136th St	145	147	+4	11.8	81	4.9
285	377	136th St	145	147	+4	11.8	81	4.9
286	378	136th St	145	147	+4	11.8	81	4.9
287	379	136th St	145	147	+4	11.8	81	4.9
288	380	136th St	145	147	+4	11.8	81	4.9
289	381	136th St	145	147	+4	11.8	81	4.9
290	382	136th St	145	147	+4	11.8	81	4.9
291	383	136th St	145	147	+4	11.8	81	4.9
292	384	136th St	145	147	+4	11.8	81	4.9
293	385	136th St	145	147	+4	11.8	81	4.9
294	386	136th St	145	147	+4	11.8	81	4.9
295	387	136th St	145	147	+4	11.8	81	4.9
296	388	136th St	145	147	+4	11.8	81	4.9
297	389	136th St	145	147	+4	11.8	81	4.9
298	390	136th St	145	147	+4	11.8	81	4.9
299	391	136th St	145	147	+4	11.8	81	4.9
300	392	136th St	145	147	+4	11.8	81	4.9
301	393	136th St	145	147	+4	11.8	81	4.9

1070	79%	P & D 55%	67	172	73	73	
4090	267	Powerful Delivery	243	292	30.1	10.4	8.6
2192	62	TP Europe	73	72	+2	1	0.5
144	63	TPF	65	69			
3230	243	Miller & Seiden	295	308	●-2	10.7	37 25.1
186	212	Timex	350	366	-1	12.8	35 24

WATER

2548	200	Anglian Water	223	223	2	26.4	01	5.2
2549	215	London Water	223	223	2	21.6	03	5.8
2550	216	Northumbria	223	223	2	21.6	03	5.8
2551	214	North West	223	223	2	21.0	03	4.9
2552	210	Severn-Trent	196	197	-1	13.6	01	2.4
2553	201	Strat. Water	180	181	-1	70.0	10	17.7
2554	203	South West	218	218	0	23.2	15	3.5
2555	200	Thames Valley	218	218	0	23.2	15	3.5
2556	200	West Midlands	218	218	0	23.2	15	3.5
2557	200	Western Water	241	242	-1	26.3	03	5.9
2558	200	Wessex Water	241	241	0	26.3	03	5.9
2559	200	Yorkshire Water	241	241	0	26.3	03	5.9
2560	1000	Pacific Water	2200	2200	0	20.0	08	8.1

Ex dividend a Ex sit b Forecast dividend c Interim
 Payment passed f Price at suspension g Dividend and
 bid received a special dividend i Pre-meeting figures a
 Forecast announced e Ex other f Ex rights a Ex scrip or
 new split i Tax-free h No significant data.

1. *Journal of the American Medical Association*, 1997; 277: 1033-1036.

Other	1 month	1 yr.
price	part	part

[illegible]

Go-ahead given for issue of shares that pay interest

the Halifax and Nationwide Angels, and it is no longer valid to refer to building societies as having special characteristics with regards to their business, given that the second largest 'building society' is technically a 'bank'. Similarly, the distinction between a bank and a building society has been eroded now that an author-

While societies have found it reasonably easy to attract retail funds during the past two years, as interest rates have climbed and investors have remained nervous of stock markets, they are concerned for their longer term future. They point out that it took six years for the Building Societies Act to be implemented and they cannot afford to wait until they are losing market share before they apply for greater freedom.

The memorandum recognises

One venture the society might want to consider was small corporate lending. Currently if a long term society customer starts up a small business or wanted to buy a

Mr Bolcat said that the association was seeking meetings with the Treasury and the Building Societies Commission to discuss its proposals.

Abbey National will charge existing borrowers with loans under £60,000 14.65 per cent from November. But there are discounts of 0.7 per cent for loans over £60,000 and a further 0.3 per cent above £100,000. First-time

The shares would be counted as part of the society's tier one capital. A society with £100 million in reserves will be allowed to raise £50 million through the shares. Societies have been asked to comment on the details of the shares and the tax treatment by November 15. The shares must be perpetual instruments and repayment may only occur on the winding up of the society.

Abbey National will charge existing borrowers with loans under £60,000 14.65 per cent from November. But there are discounts of 0.7 per cent for loans over £60,000 and a further 0.3 per cent above £100,000. First-time

[illegible]

Gilts market recovers its sharp edge

By RICHARD IRVING

WITH City economists widely predicting a further cut in interest rates about the turn of the year, investors looking to lock into high-yielding securities are turning to the government bond market and gilts.

Mike Scott, of Hargreaves Lansdown, the independent financial adviser, thinks investors could see total returns top 20 per cent over the next year or more.

"For the first time in many months, prospects for the gilt market look very encouraging indeed. We have been talking to a number of fund managers who are buying gilts for both growth and income funds, attracted by the potential for solid capital appreciation."

Chris Anthony, economist at UBS Phillips & Drew, is also cautiously optimistic. "A 3 per cent fall in interest rates to 11 per cent and a fall in the headline rate of inflation to about 6 per cent by the latter half of next year should lead to some respectable returns in the gilt market," he said.

But for many investors, the cost of purchasing gilts can severely eat into potential profits. Although fixed commission charges were abolished as part of the deregulation of the gilt market at the time of Big Bang, a typical stockbroker will charge about 1 per cent on the first £2,500, 0.25 per cent on the next £12,500, and 0.125 per cent on any amount thereafter.

These charges are, however, negotiable. Some stockbrokers charge less for transactions at the short end of the market for gilts with a life of less than five years, and may waive commission altogether, although investors will generally find that in such cases deals at the longer end become more expensive.

Minimum commissions also vary from £15 to £50. Alternatively, gilts can be bought and sold through the National Savings stock register. Application forms are available at all main post offices. Although commission charges are far more competitive, particularly for smaller deals of £5,000 or less, orders must be processed through the post. It is worth bearing in mind that the market could move sharply against the buyer between posting the order and the receipt and execution at the stock and bonds office in Blackpool.

Not all gilts are available

through the register and there is a maximum investment of £10,000 in any one stock per day. But there is no limit to the total amount of stock that anyone may hold.

Apart from the obvious advantages of lower dealing costs, investors buying gilts through the register receive interest payments gross of basic rate income tax - an added bonus for non-taxpayers such as non-earning wives.

Purchases of up to £250 incur a charge of £1, with a further 50p for each additional £125 or part thereof. On the sale side, investors are charged 10p per £100 up to £100, £1 for sales between £100 and £250 and a further 50p for each additional £125 or part thereof.

Investors may prefer to leave the business of individual stock selection to a professional fund manager. Gilt and fixed interest unit trusts have performed relatively well over the past 12 months, which is to say they have lost less money than a comparable equity fund.

For the year to October, the sector average was down nearly 7 per cent, although just under 25 per cent of the funds currently in issue are still showing profits, with Framlington Gilt Income, the top performer, a creditable 13 per cent.

But investors should watch the front-end charges and annual management fees, which vary greatly from fund to fund. Both Commercial Union and Legal & General, for example, charge investors 6 per cent for the initial transaction and a further 0.75 per cent each year. Fidelity, on the other hand, charges a similar 0.75 per cent annual management fee, but nothing for the initial purchase.

"I really feel that a 6 per cent charge on a gilt fund is over the top," said Barry Bateman, Fidelity's managing director. "By keeping the charges down to the barest minimum, we hope to offer investors a cost-effective way into a managed gilt portfolio while still remaining competitive with the National Savings register."

Jon Baile, director of Whittingdale Unit Trust Management is also keen to see



Optimistic: Chris Anthony believes gilts will begin to show respectable returns

larger sums to invest, ranging from 2 per cent for sums of £5,000 to £10,000, to 0.25 per cent for sums of £50,000 to £100,000. Investments of more than £100,000 are not liable to initial charges.

Investors who opt for either the gilt growth fund or the short-dated gilt fund, meanwhile, will currently pay 1.25 per cent up front.

Should gilts indeed take off as the economic outlook improves, investors who shop around for the cheapest dealing rates will find their overall returns greatly enhanced.

Should gilts indeed take off as the economic outlook improves, investors who shop around for the cheapest dealing rates will find their overall returns greatly enhanced.

GILT CHARGES			
	£1,000	£5,000	£10,000
Stockbroker	min 15-40	min 15-40	43.75
NS Register	4	20	40
Legal & General	60	300	600
Gilt Fund			1,200
Fidelity Gilt			
& Fixed Interest Fund*			

*Not including annual management fees

INTEREST RATES ROUND-UP

	Month	3 months	6 months	1 year	2 years	3 years	4 years	5 years	10 years
BANKS									
Ordinary Dep A/C	3.50	3.80	4.50	5.00	5.50	6.00	6.50	7.00	7.50
Fixed Term Deposits:									
1 month	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00
3 months	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00
6 months	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00
1 year	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00
2 years	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00
3 years	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00
4 years	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00
5 years	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00
10 years	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00

HIGH INTEREST CHEQUE ACCOUNTS			
	Rate	Min. Bal.	Notes
Bank of Scotland	9.47	9.90	7.92
Barclays	9.50	9.84	7.87
Co-operative	9.50	9.84	7.87
Credit	9.50	9.84	7.87
London	9.50	9.84	7.87
Midland	9.50	9.84	7.87
North	9.50	9.84	7.87
South	9.50	9.84	7.87
West	9.50	9.84	7.87

BUILDING SOCIETIES			
	Rate	Min. Bal.	Notes
Building Society	6.16	6.15	4.92
Best buy - largest socs:			
10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00
10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00
10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00
10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00
10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00

NATIONAL SAVINGS			
	Rate	Min. Bal.	Notes
Ordinary A/C	5.00	3.75	3.00
Investment A/C	12.75	9.25	7.00
Income Fund	13.50	10.13	8.10
Depository Cert	13.50	10.13	8.10
20th Issue Cert	13.50	10.13	8.10
25th Issue Cert	13.50	10.13	8.10
25th Issue Cert	13.50	10.13	8.10
25th Issue Cert	13.50	10.13	8.10

GUARANTEED INCOME BONDS			
	Rate	Min. Bal.	Notes
Guaranteed Income	10.00	10.00	10.00
Guaranteed Income	10.00	10.00	10.00
Guaranteed Income	10.00	10.00	10.00
Guaranteed Income	10.00	10.00	10.00
Guaranteed Income	10.00	10.00	10.00

CGT ALLOWANCE, September 1990

The indexed rate for calculating the CGT allowance on assets disposed of in September 1990

	1982	1983	1984	1985	1986	1987	1988	1989	1990
Jan	0.585	0.488	0.418	0.348	0.288	0.238	0.188	0.138	0.088
Feb	0.585	0.488	0.418	0.348	0.288	0.238	0.188	0.138	0.088
Mar	0.585	0.488	0.418	0.348	0.288	0.238	0.188	0.138	0.088
Apr	0.585	0.488	0.418	0.348	0.288	0.238	0.188	0.138	0.088
May	0.585	0.488	0.418	0.348	0.288	0.238	0.188	0.138	0.088
Jun	0.585	0.488	0.418	0.348	0.288	0.238	0.188	0.138	0.088
Jul	0.585	0.488	0.418	0.348	0.288	0.238	0.188	0.138	0.088
Aug	0.585	0.488	0.418	0.348	0.288	0.238	0.188	0.138	0.088
Sep	0.585	0.488	0.418	0.348	0.288	0.238	0.188	0.138	0.088
Oct	0.585	0.488	0.418	0.348	0.288	0.238	0.188	0.138	0.088
Nov	0.585	0.488	0.418	0.348	0.288	0.238	0.188	0.138	0.088
Dec	0.585	0.488	0.418	0.348	0.288	0.238	0.188	0.138	0.088

BRIEFINGS

Save & Prosper is offering 1 per cent extra interest to savers who register for their tax-exempt special savings account (Tessa) now and invest by January 7. Investors will be able to deposit a minimum lump sum of £500 annually, and a maximum of £3,000 in the first year and £1,800 in each of the following four. The maximum investment over the five-year term is £9,000.

Lloyd's members were offered advice on how to make the most of their money this week. Roger Brown, partner with BDO Binder Hamlyn's private client department, said in his annual "Wealthy and Wise" seminar at Lloyd's that there was currently a window of opportunity to create as well as preserve wealth. Although life assurance savings products looked inefficient compared with Peps and the Tessa, they would continue to be mar-

keted because of the high commissions paid to salesmen, he said. Meanwhile, Mike Voller, a specialist consultant, warned Lloyd's Names to seek ways of minimising risks. "As membership is falling, members will require a higher return from their agents to justify the ultimate risk of unlimited liability," he said.

Sun Alliance UK has linked with Conran Octopus, the publisher, to produce *The Sun Alliance HomeCare Manual*. It gives tips on home improvements, renovation and repairs, and safety.

Redmayne-Bentley, the Leeds-based stockbroker, has launched a new service to provide advice on investment trusts. Seminars will be held on how investment trusts work and how they can be used to meet specific investment objectives.

The Trades Union Unit

Trust (TUUT), which invests in British commercial and industrial companies other than those with interests in South Africa, is to launch a personal equity plan. The PEP will have a minimum lump sum investment of £100 and a maximum of £3,000. Alternatively, investors can make monthly contributions of between £50 and £250 in multiples of £50. An initial 5 per cent charge is payable on the unit trust, which was set up in 1961 to allow trade union members to invest in ordinary stocks and shares. There is an annual management fee of 1 per cent.

Nelphi, market leader in permanent health insurance (PHI), has announced mea-

sures that, the company hopes, will revamp the sector in Britain. As part of the initiative, marketing literature will no longer refer to permanent health insurance, which, says Stuart Chambers, assistant general manager, the public often associates with other types of medical insurance. It will, instead, refer to long term disability insurance. According to a survey commissioned by the company, more than 5,000 people out of ten confuse permanent health insurance, or long term disability insurance, with either private health plans, life assurance or state benefit. To help smooth the relaunch of PHI under the new banner, Nelphi is offering employers a

greater degree of flexibility over the type of cover they choose for their employees and therefore greater control over the cost of premiums. The Bank of England wants to hear from any person who has made deposits or investments with James Leslie Marston and George Edward Watson Bowyer of McColl & Crow, the chartered accountant, from The Avenue, Southampton. An injunction was obtained in the High Court, this week to stop the two men or the firm disposing of assets before November 6. The Bank is investigating allegations that the company and three others took deposits without authorisation under the Banking Act.

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SIGNATURE _____ EXPIRY DATE _____

TITLE _____ INITIALS _____ SURNAME _____

ADDRESS _____

POST CODE _____ TEL NO _____

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FROM 22ND OCTOBER 1990

	INTEREST PAID	NET RATE	GROSS RATE
PREMIUM NO ACCOUNT (High interest account with cash access)			
£50,000+	Annually	11.625%	15.50%
£25,000 - £49,999	Annually	11.25%	15.00%
£10,000 - £24,999	Annually	10.875%	14.50%
£5,000 - £9,999	Annually	10.50%	14.00%
PREMIUM INCOME ACCOUNT (Monthly income account)			
£25,000+	Monthly	11.00%	14.87%
£10,000 - £24,999	Monthly	10.50%	14.00%
£5,000 - £9,999	Monthly	10.20%	13.60%
SUPER SHARE PLUS ACCOUNT (Flexible, instant access account)			
£30,000+	Annually	10.20%	13.60%
£10,000 - £29,999	Annually	9.75%	13.00%
£5,000 - £9,999	Annually	9.30%	12.52%
£2,500 - £4,999	Annually	9.00%	12.20%
£1,000 - £2,499	Annually	8.75%	12.12%
£500 - £999	Annually	8.50%	11.85%
£1 - £499	Annually	7.20%	9.00%
BASIC NO ACCOUNT (Low interest account)			
£25,000+	Annually	12.20%	16.27%
£10,000 - £24,999	Annually	11.20%	14.93%
£5,000 - £9,999	Annually	10.20%	13.59%
ORDINARY SHARES (Cash account)			
£1+	Half Yearly	6.20%	8.27%

The net rate of interest on all other investment and deposit accounts (except SAYE) will be reduced by 0.8%.

The gross rates of interest on Super Share International (for those not ordinarily resident in the UK) and Treasurers Accounts (for tax exempt organisations) are also reduced from 22nd October 1990.

Full details of all investment accounts are available from any branch office of the Society or from the Chief Office at the address shown below.

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The basic rate of interest charged on existing mortgages for owner occupiers will be 14.5% from 1st November 1990 or at a later date subject to the terms of the mortgage deed.

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*Source: Macropal Ltd

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Portfolio PLATINUM

For readers who may have missed a copy of *The Times* this week, we repeat below the week's Portfolio price changes (today's are on page 57).

	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun
1	+7	+7	+4	+5	+5		
2	+6	+2	+7	+1	+3		
3	+5	+3	+3	+1	+9		
4	+7	+6	+5	+4	+7		
5	+4	+4	+1	+2	+7		
6	+7	+1	+6	+2	+4		
7	+4	+2	+2	+1	+4		
8	+6	+5	+5	+5	+5		
9	+3	+3	+2	+2	+7		
10	+3	+3	+1	+1	+4		
11	+3	+1	+2	+3	+4		
12	+3	+3	+3	+1	+8		
13	+3	+3	+2	+2	+4		
14	+6	+1	+5	+3	+4		
15	+7	+6	+3	+4	+6		
16	+4	+3	+2	+1	+8		
17	+7	+6	+4	+3	+5		
18	+5	+4	+2	+1	+9		
19	+6	+2	+5	+2	+4		
20	+6	+5	+3	+4	+5		
21	+4	+4	+1	+1	+9		
22	+6	+3	+7	+2	+5		
23	+6	+1	+1	+3	+6		
24	+6	+5	+2	+2	+3		
25	+6	+5	+4	+3	+7		
26	+4	+5	+1	+2	+7		
27	+4	+1	+3	+2	+3		
28	+5	+3	+7	+1	+3		
29	+6	+5	+5	+3	+6		
30	+7	+1	+5	+3	+6		
31	+3	+5	+2	+1	+8		
32	+7	+1	+6	+4	+4		
33	+4	+2	+1	+2	+5		
34	+6	+6	+4	+3	+6		
35	+8	+6	+4	+3			

WEEKEND MONEY

LETTERS

Left short by Treasury stocks

From H. L. Salter

Sir, A few years ago, I purchased through the Bank of England a new issue of £4,900 8% per cent Treasury Loan 2000 stock.

In June 1990, I accepted an offer to convert my holding to 9 per cent Conversion Stock 2000, thinking that I was about to receive an increase of 1/2 per cent on my holding. I recently received my certificate stating that my capital was reduced to £4,738.30.

My income on my holding of £4,900 at 8% per cent = £416.50. My income on my holding of £4,738.30 at 9 per cent = £426.44 — an increase of £9.94 per annum.

But in *The Times* of September 15 the stock exchange price was 8 1/2 per cent Treasury Loan 2000 at £82 = £4,018, and 9 per cent Conversion Stock 2000 at £84 = £3,977.92 — a loss of capital of £40.08.

I am in my eighty-first year of age, and in accepting the offer of an increase of 1/2 per cent I quite thought that I would receive an increase of £24.50 per annum in my income, only to find that I in fact only receive £9.94 and lose £40.08 in capital, or have I got it all wrong?

Yours faithfully,
H. L. SALTER
207 South Norwood Hill,
SE25.

I have checked the offer that was made in June 1990 to holders of the 8% per cent Treasury Loan 2000 to convert into 9 per cent Conversion Stock 2000, and this makes it clear that for every £100 of the old stock a holder accepting the offer would receive £96.70 of the new stock. Thus your original holding of £4,900 of the old stock was correctly converted into £4,738.30 of the new stock.

The reduction in the nominal capital reflects the increase in the rate of interest paid on the new stock with a very small uplift.

It does mean, however, that the amount that will be paid out on maturity is less on the new stock than it was on the old one.

This is also reflected in the differing market prices which you quote, which are of course affected by the going rate of interest and by market conditions generally.

Published replies marked with the triangular logo are by Bill Packer, tax partner at accountants Touche Ross, in association with *The Times*. No legal responsibility can be accepted for advice or statements in these columns and independent professional advice should be sought.

How do I handle the Trust, gran?

Life is built on trust, son... and keeping an eye on the small print.



Block holdings of BAA shares and the loyalty bonus

From Dr J. H. Evans

Sir, I would like to add some comments regarding the loss of BAA bonus shares to those who, like Leslie Symonds (Letters, September 22), Alan Betts (October 6) and myself, for convenience consolidated a few blocks of family shares into one holding.

While the mini-prospectus notes on share bonus arrangements admittedly made no reference to the consolidation procedure, there was certainly nothing to suggest that this action could be penalised.

What seemed particularly relevant at the time was that in the notes for transfers made after August 28, 1987 (the date after which the form for consolidation could not be used), the mini-prospectus made it very clear that shares transferred from child to parent within the family would not lead to any losses in bonus share entitlement.

If this slightly more complicated route to making an effective consolidation was valid, how could eligibility possibly be lost by the "official" route to consolidation? I assume that I must be missing some subtle point, but an eight-week-old enquiry, to

the BAA registrars (Barclays) has yet to produce a reply. Until I and others understand the rules by which the game is being played, we are going to feel very strongly that we have been robbed.

From the frequent correspondence on the issue of privatisation shares, the area would clearly benefit considerably if we had an ombudsman to whom we could appeal for fair play.

Yours faithfully,
JOHN EVANS,
27 Cleavelands,
Abingdon,
Oxfordshire.

From Mr M. J. Dawson
Sir, BAA have been pilloried in your recent *Weekend Money* letters by three correspondents who in each case have not received their loyalty bonus shares because of share

consolidation. My wife and I had 100 shares each of the original issue. We both ticked the block in paragraph four on the share application form, asking if we were eligible for bonus shares, a condition reserved for private investors.

At the beginning of this year we received a circularised letter from BAA asking if we would consider consolidating the family shares for economy in administration.

The form showed that consolidation within the family would not affect the loyalty bonus. I transferred my 100 shares to my wife and several weeks ago she received a further share certificate to the value of two loyalty bonuses.

Yours faithfully,
M. J. DAWSON,
16 Rookery Avenue,
Grimsby,
South Humberside.

Changing trust terms

From J. Dobbs

Sir, My father died in 1968 leaving a farmhouse, which I live in, and 43 acres which I farm as part of my farm (for which I pay rent to my mother) and a bungalow.

These were left in trust for me until the death or remarriage of my mother who lived in the bungalow and was to pay for its upkeep. Now, aged 90, she has recently gone into a residential home and wishing to rid herself of the upkeep of the property she wants me to have the bungalow now while leaving the rest in trust.

Would this be possible and what tax if any would be payable?

I paid estate duty at the time of my father's death. The bungalow was built in 1963, has two bedrooms and is worth about £65,000.

I should be interested in your comments.
Yours faithfully,
J. DOBBS,
Model Farm,
West Finchbeck,
Spalding,
Lincolnshire.

Much depends on the exact terms of the trust and how it is set up. However, it may be possible, with the agreement of all concerned, to vary the terms of the trust to enable the bungalow to be passed to you now.

This is a matter of trust law and practice and you should seek the advice of a solicitor who is a specialist in this field.

Charges for credit

From Mrs Elizabeth Fairbairn
Sir, Does anyone really believe there will be discounts in shops for cash payments?

Is it not more likely that prices will be increased for credit card payments?
Yours faithfully,
ELIZABETH FAIRBAIRN,
Venlaw,
5 Onslow Road,
New Malden,
Surrey.

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some Barclays Unicorn Small-er Companies Trust units at 50p each which I can sell today for the princely sum of 29.93p each. Beat that!

Yours faithfully,
F. J. BERGIN,
Elstree House,
Elstree Way,
Borehamwood,
Hertfordshire.

From N. J. Moore
Sir, I nominate MIM Britannia for their Gold Unit Trust. Between April 14, 1987, when I bought their units and February 8, 1988, when I sold them, the price of gold rose from \$437 to \$444 per ounce, yet the price of their units fell from 105p to 43.4p, offer to bid.

Yours faithfully,
N. J. MOORE,
The Callow,
Walford, Ross-on-Wye,
Hereford and Worcester.

Three years ago I purchased

From Mr Francis J. Bergin
Sir, From my experience, Mr Newton (October 13) appears, if anything, to be somewhat ungrateful for his largesse!

Three years ago I purchased

From Mr L. Arrowsmith
Sir, I read your account (October 13) concerning the problems faced by ex Guardian Building Society members following the merger with the Cheltenham & Gloucester with some interest.

The problems are the direct result of the Building Societies Commission failing to carry out its statutory duty to ensure that satisfactory arrangements are made for the integration of computer systems and related matters.

The Building Societies Commission also consistently fails to ensure that the statements sent to members prior

to a merger contain all the information required by the Building Societies Act 1986, and that the information is not misleading.

Financial pundits are forecasting more mergers and conversions to public limited companies. If the Building Societies Commission does not stop rubber stamping changes, more Guardian and Abbey National fiascos are in store.

Yours faithfully,
L. ARROWSMITH,
Maes Y Llan,
Pen Y Bryn Road,
Llanfairfechan,
Gwynedd.

Commission to blame for merger woes

From Mr L. Arrowsmith
Sir, I read your account (October 13) concerning the problems faced by ex Guardian Building Society members following the merger with the Cheltenham & Gloucester with some interest.

The problems are the direct result of the Building Societies Commission failing to carry out its statutory duty to ensure that satisfactory arrangements are made for the integration of computer systems and related matters.

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Yours faithfully,
L. ARROWSMITH,
Maes Y Llan,
Pen Y Bryn Road,
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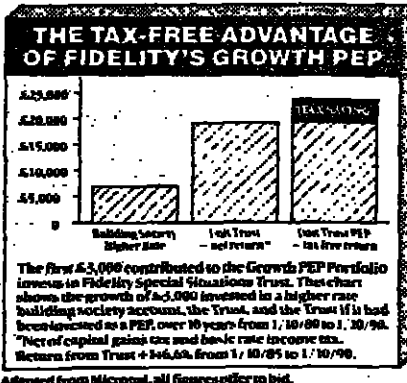
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*Planned Savings survey of regular annual contribution with-profits personal pension plans June 1990.

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WHERE PEOPLE MATTER

WEEKEND MONEY

Jury still considering the modest head of Bass

By CAROL LEONARD

BUSINESS
PROFILE

Ian Prosser

Ian Prosser, the chairman and chief executive of Bass, the biggest brewer in Britain and, as the owner of Holiday Inn, the biggest hotel company in the world, is a man who has to be in control. And he is. Of both his business and his personal life.

He is also accepted as living proof that you do not have to be ruthless, obsessively ambitious and an egomaniac to be successful. He has reached the pinnacle of his industry, at the helm of a £3.7 billion business empire, at 47, a decade or two ahead of his counterparts in rival firms. Sir Allen Sheppard, of Grand Metropolitan, is 57, and Sir Derrick Holden Brown, of Allied Lyons, 67.

Anyone who has ever met him will agree — he is a really nice guy. Some might say too nice. But it has not stood in his way.

Prosser's strategy for success has been to divide his business and his private lives into separate spheres. And never the twain shall meet. So much so that he finds it virtually impossible to make the psychological jump from one sphere to the other. Normally relaxed and lucid, he is visibly uncomfortable when forced to talk about his family, his upbringing and his innermost thoughts. It quickly becomes obvious that he finds his surroundings — a functional office block in London's Chiltern Street — an incongruous place to be having such a conversation.

"I do try to keep my private life private," Prosser admits. And, as in everything he does, he is so thorough in his fulfilment of that objective that business colleagues and contacts only ever see his office persona.

Ask him who his friends are and he looks a little lost. "You mean business friends? No, none. But lots of acquaintances." When pressed, he admits to two friends, neither of whom have anything to do with business. "One in West Germany and one in Southampton." But he initially refuses, point blank, to identify either.

He is, in short, a man who takes a long time to accept someone as a friend, 20 or 30 years. And he is fiercely protective.

"I suppose when you are in his position it is difficult to make new friends," says one old college chum who has known him for almost 30. "Most people want to get to know him for a reason."

But this divide, almost as rigid as a brick wall, has two sides, and his friends are never allowed to mix with his business colleagues and repeatedly insist that he almost never mentions Bass. He entertains in his Berkshire, Hertfordshire, home a lot. But never business associates.

"He just never mentions work," says one friend. "He might say that he'd been in New York that week, or something like that, but nothing more. But I did hear him on the radio once, talking about the brewing industry and he did sound strange. Very important, very much in control and completely different to how he is when I talk to him. He has an ability to switch off when he is with family and friends."

This characteristic explains the incomplete impression he creates in the business world. "He is very impressive, business-like, less prickly than Sir Derek Palmer (Prosser's forerunner and mentor) and although he doesn't suffer fools gladly, he is always polite," says one City analyst who specialises in the brewing sector. "But he is quite cold. I've never seen him roar with laughter. He takes things a bit too seriously."

Prosser has heard such criticisms before. "Business is serious. I enjoy it enormously but it carries some important responsibilities: 100,000 people are employed in

Bass and there are millions of customers. Unashamedly, I take the business seriously. A lot of people's livelihoods have to be safeguarded."

His wife, Liz, gives it a different perspective. "He is probably tired. Often by the time the evening comes and he trails off to dinner, he is almost on his knees. But he certainly isn't cold." She accepts, however, that he is markedly different in a business environment. "When he switches into business mode it's like a little red light flashing on top of his head."

It is also wrong to say that he has no sense of humour. Although he does not fulfil the Dickensian caricature of a hail and hearty brewery boss, laughing raucously and telling dirty jokes, he does smile easily. And he laughs often, albeit quietly. "He laughs with his eyes," says one City analyst who has known him longer than most. "It is a genuine laugh, not a forced, artificial one. He is not the sort of person who would give a belly ache laugh."

"He never loses his cool," says another follower of the sector, who has chaired Prosser's progress through Bass for the past 21 years. "He is always very controlled, but not in a pompous sort of way. He is very approachable, the sort of person who will sit down in an easy chair, light up a cigar and have a chat about things. Some people find him daunting, because of his sheer intellectual rigour. He is a thinker. But although he is bright and has a very quick mind, he is not the sort of person you would discuss Socrates with — he is not that sort of intellectual. He also

big investment steps, at a fragile time, which has since become even more fragile," says one of the aforementioned brewery analysts. "Bass wants to take Holiday Inn up-market, to get more value added. But since the majority of the hotels are in the hands of franchisees, it is not entirely the master of its own destiny."

Prosser himself is, as ever, relaxed. The company's year-end results are due out in December and so he is prohibited from discussing specifics. But he does look quietly confident. "I never do or say anything without thinking about it very carefully. I like to understand all the detail. Perhaps that is why I give some people the impression of being cold and calculating," says Prosser. "As far as the Bass strategy is concerned, the major planks are now in place. We have had to reformulate and rethink the business, not just because of the Monopolies and Mergers Commission, but because of Europe and 1992. It will make a radical difference."

The MMC report into the brewing industry has, he believes, left Bass "as a company with a great deal of opportunity."

"But I think certain people in the industry face a very rough future. And I don't think the government has done the consumer a great service. The price of beer will go up sooner and there will be fewer brands of beer."

Prosser was chosen by the Brewers' Society as its spokesman in talks with the MMC. It was, he says, "just a one off". It, nevertheless, shows the esteem in which he is held by the industry. But as for the legendary lobbying power of the "beverage", Prosser remarks that "it didn't add up to a row of beans in the end", and that the beverage is an historical concept.

As for Holiday Inn it is, he says, a very strong brand, and although the economic slowdown in America "could have some impact", trade is "holding up well" so far.

In Britain, economic conditions have had an effect. "We are big retailers here and consumer spending has been affected by poll tax, higher oil and petrol prices, and high interest rates. I think 1991 will be a very hard year."

While Bass adjusts to this



Smiling: Ian Prosser, whose strategy for success has been to divide his business and private lives into separate spheres, at home with his wife Liz

changing environment, external observers say that the company's culture has altered under Prosser. Sir Derek Palmer, now chairman of Yorkshire Television, was seen as far more cautious. "I do not want to decay in any sense what he did," says Prosser. "But you have people who fit a time perhaps." The company is, he says, now sharper and clearer in terms of its objectives.

It was Palmer who spotted Prosser, earmarking him as his protégé, shortly after he joined Bass at 26. A chartered accountant — he had trained with Coopers & Lybrand in Birmingham — it was Prosser's unsolicited suggestion that Bass should introduce a formalised planning and financial control system that caught Palmer's eye. Prosser was thus destined for the top, but Palmer's choice of heir provoked no boardroom rows or resignations. Prosser, with charac-

teristic modesty, says that he was lucky that, from early on in his career, "the people I was promoted above were enormously supportive of me, there was no bad feeling". He became finance director at 36 and chief executive at 39. He sees his comparative youth as a strength. "Age is important. It means that you take a different view of how far ahead you plan."

His wife, a dentist who still works two days a week for the National Health Service in Hertfordshire, notes that it was not until he joined Coopers that he stood out intellectually. "Only then did he start to shine among his peer group. He was never interested in academia for academia's sake, but as soon as he found himself in a business environment, he started to excel."

The couple met in the coffee bar

at Birmingham University, where they were students. "I was smitten straight away," Prosser recalls, with obvious affection. "I asked her out to dinner that night and she accepted." They married 18 months later, when they were 21.

"He was unbelievably easy to talk to," says Liz. "You felt you could tell him everything. Perhaps it was because he grew up with three sisters."

Born in Bath, the only son of an Imperial Tobacco salesman, he went to King Edward's School, Bath, and then Watford Grammar. "We all got scholarships. Money was pretty tight. But my parents believed in education because it was something they lacked themselves." It was a happy, secure childhood. "It was blue skies every day. It never seemed to rain. We used to sail oil drums down the River Avon."

Prosser has endeavoured to give

his own daughters, Sarah, aged 22, and Joanna, 19, both now at Exeter University, the same home life.

Despite his £285,000 a year salary, their home is comfortable but far from the mansion it could be. There is no swimming pool, he drives a Volvo and takes the train to work.

He refuses to discuss politics — "the basis of a democratic society is a secret ballot" — and does not go to church, even though he was raised in the Church of England by a mother "who had a strong tendency towards Quakerism".

"But I do believe," he says, "I believe that individuals have responsibilities to other individuals and I think people should always be mindful of those responsibilities." He sees my pen poised. "But you can't write that," he exclaims. Why not? "I mean," he stutters, "what businessman would say something like that?"

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£7,500	£8,310	£810
£10,000	£11,080	£1,080
£15,000	£16,620	£1,620
£25,000	£27,700	£2,700
£50,000	£55,400	£5,400

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Life assurance included
In the event of your death during the 12 months of the Bond, your initial investment will be returned in full. Interest is paid only on maturity after 12 months. You can buy the October Bond on a single or joint life last survivor basis.

Your tax position
The interest you will receive on your Bond when it matures is paid net of basic rate Income Tax. You will have no further tax to pay unless you are a higher rate taxpayer. In this case you would be liable for the difference between the higher and lower rates of tax, currently 15%. The maturity of your Bond, therefore, is treated as a chargeable event for tax purposes. Tax deducted is not reclaimable by non-taxpayers. There is no liability to Capital Gains Tax. Rules may, of course, change in the future.

Cancellation
Once your investment has been accepted, you cannot withdraw it before your October Bond matures. That is one year after the day it was issued.

Eligibility
You must be a UK resident aged over 18 when you apply. Hambro Guardian reserves the right to refuse applications. A copy of the policy and your completed application is available on request.

All change with new mark notes

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IN FRANKFURT



Familiar: notes prior to unity

JUST why the Bundesbank, the German central bank, this month introduced a new set of notes, which like the old ones are meant to last for at least 40 years, has struck some people here as somewhat bewildering. This is particularly so, since the Bundesbank, at least officially, believes in a single European currency, probably by the end of the decade.

There are a number of peculiarities about these new notes. Although the DM100 and a newly-introduced DM200 note have been in circulation since the start of the month, few Germans have yet seen one, let alone used one. The bank manager of a Dresdner Bank branch explained that the banking machines, themselves a relatively new invention in an otherwise high-tech country, have to be changed before they are able to accept the new notes, which are smaller than the old ones and more difficult to counterfeit.

There was also speculation that the Bundesbank made an unfortunate mistake. A second batch of DM200 notes had to be printed when the number 300 appeared on the first lot, leading to some confusion as to what the money is actually worth. Since so few have seen the new money, it was not possible to have this confirmed — the Bundesbank certainly did not — but there have been suggestions that it might have been an ill-fated device to accustom the Germans again to the concept of inflation, particularly in the light of the soaring costs of unification.

The timing of the introduction must amaze particularly the

people of the former East Germany. After the ostmarks and the old-style Deutschmarks, they now have a third set of notes within one year.

Still fresh in everyone's memory are the scenes of July 1, the day of German monetary union, when bewildered East Germans clumsily tried to come to grips with the feel and look of the new money.

Despite the bold-printed figures, they sometimes had difficulty in identifying the notes. Even today, eastern Germans continue to entertain the notion of *westgeld* (west money), and the introduction of new notes three months after monetary union, hardly makes for greater familiarity.

Since the larger denominations of notes were introduced first, it is even less likely that eastern Germans will have seen the new money yet. With monetary union, the Bundesbank made the mistake of supplying East Germany with the same ratio of banknote denominations as was common in the west, irrespective of the fact that poorer people somehow have less need for DM1,000 notes, which East German banks have in abundance, while DM10 and DM20 notes are almost a rarity.

The remaining notes will be introduced, or so it is intended, during next year.

There has been some unease that a woman, Bettina von Arnim, a writer, is pictured on the cheapest note, the DM5, while two men, the Grimm brothers, have their faces on the DM1,000.

The celebrities on the notes, all protagonists of the *dichter und denker* (poets and philosophers) tradition, have been chosen, the Bundesbank said in an advertisement, because of their fierce "independence", an attribute no German institute has ever claimed for itself in quite the same degree as the Bundesbank has done. It has been suggested it might as well have chosen Karl Otto Fohl, the Bundesbank president himself.

SUMMARY

Bankrupt continued as director

A CHANGE in one letter of his surname allowed a bankrupt to continue as a company director selling insurance to purchasers of second hand high performance cars. The sole director of Performance Car Warranty, Frank Reid, was declared bankrupt under his real name of Reed in 1986 but went on to become the director of another company that was later declared insolvent. Page 42

Bass head



Ian Prosser, chairman and chief executive of Bass, keeps his work strictly separate from pleasure. So much so that he almost never mentions the brewery when he entertains at his home in Berkhamstead, Hertfordshire. Page 43

Pep to invest

Rule changes for personal equity plans announced this week make them more attractive for nervous investors and will give a boost to the electricity sell-off and Eurotunnel rights issue. Page 42

Your views

The penalty of accepting an offer to switch from one gilt-edged stock to another is spelt out by one reader. Other letters discuss unit trust performance, loyalty bonuses, and charges for credit card customers. Page 41

Gilt charges

As interest rates come down investors are returning to gilts. But they need to beware of the possible charges. Page 40

Bank appeal

The Bank of England has appealed for information from anyone who has paid deposits to a firm of chartered accountants in Southampton. It believes the firm has taken £600,000 in deposits without being authorised to do so under the Banking Act. Page 40

New societies

Building societies want to scrap the legislation that governs the way they operate. If they obtain their way there could be big changes in the high street and possibly cheaper mortgages. Page 39

Stock building

Building societies are to be allowed to raise money by issuing permanent interest bearing shares. Quoted on the Stock Exchange, the shares will pay interest instead of dividends. Page 39

Special offers

Most mortgage lenders have now reduced their interest rates to take account of the bank base rate reduction. There are also special offers for first time and new borrowers. Page 39

THE SUNDAY TIMES
Flying in the face of recession

The world's airlines are in disarray, devastated by soaring fuel prices and falling traffic. Yet they have just placed orders for new planes worth \$24 billion. Why? Tomorrow, in *The Sunday Times*, Andrew Lorenz and Andrew Davidson explain how the world's largest aircraft manufacturer is about to spend \$4 billion launching a new aircraft.

Legal ban denies British chance to enter Euro lottery

Trusting one's money to luck can produce rich rewards for all. But as Margaret Dibben reports, Britain could make more out of its gambling laws

MILLIONS of Europeans in eight countries will be glued to their television sets today to see who has won 4 million euros (£2.76 million) in the third European lottery being drawn in Brussels. Unfortunately, no one from Britain will be taking part because the law, like that in Albania, the last Stalinist country in Europe, forbids state lotteries.

Even a government sponsored scheme for a National Health Service lottery fell at the first fence when it was declared illegal two years ago. And a recent attempt by a group of health authorities in Birmingham to raise £1 million a year within the lottery laws has just collapsed, although none of those involved seems to understand why.

If there was any doubt about Britain's enthusiasm for gambling, this was laid to rest by Lester Piggott's return to racing this week, giving the bookies an estimated £5 million boost at a normally quiet time of year.

The British spend annually about £10 billion on gambling, in betting shops and bingo halls, on football pools and gaming machines. From this the chancellor rakes in nearly £1 billion.

A new football pools company begins operating today to take on the likes of Littlewoods and Vernons. Another £2.33 billion is currently "invested" in premium bonds.

While a state lottery is illegal in this country, and there are no signs that this position will be reversed, local fund raising lotteries are allowed provided the sums involved fall within strict limits and are for charitable purposes. Several regional health authorities, including Macclesfield, run them successfully to raise extra funds.

Yesterday, the Macclesfield Cashline lottery, which is operated by the Macclesfield District Health Trust on behalf of the authority, celebrated its second birthday. During that time it has provided £80,000 for hospital services and £100,000 in cash prizes.

A child development centre at Macclesfield district general hospital has been funded entirely by the lottery, as has a car baby seat hire scheme. A new rapid electrocardiograph machine is also being provided for the accident and emergency department.

But the hopes of five health authorities in Birmingham to set up a similar lottery were dashed three weeks ago when the organiser pulled out.

Geoff Grieves, whose company was appointed to set up the lottery, said: "We got it going but the five Birmingham health authorities could not agree to do it. Things have been delayed until I had no alternative but to pull out. I still don't know what the problem is."

David Edwards, district general manager of Central Birmingham health authority, said: "It was a surprise to us as we had spent the previous four or five weeks working hard on negotiating the management agreement. We are

all disappointed." This aborted effort to start a city-wide lottery means the plans will have to be shelved for some time.

"Birmingham couldn't go ahead now because it has lost credibility for a period of time," said Mr Grieves.

Mr Edwards agreed: "At the moment we need to consider very carefully whether or not another lottery could be launched in Birmingham at this time. I'd take some convincing that we could run another lottery, given the public support that is necessary for doing it may not be there."

The plan entailed holding a lottery every day, with a different project or hospital benefiting from each. Cash prizes of £1,000 a day were to be offered, and gifts as subsidiary prizes. About 35 per cent of the takings would have been spent on prizes, with 40 per cent going to the health authorities and the remaining 25 per cent taken up in running costs.

The attempt to establish an NHS lottery failed because it broke the lottery rules by offering cash prizes worth far more than the maximum allowed.

In March, the House of Lords debated the question of allowing a lottery to help finance the arts, sport and the environment, but the moral arguments against gambling prevailed. This could have netted £2 billion a year for the causes with prizes of £1 million, plus many small amounts.

The government is against state lotteries because this runs counter to its policies on deregulation and privatisation. But it is not quite so firmly set against the idea of private lotteries on a national scale, although this would require legislation. There are no plans to amend the law at present but the Home Office is keeping an eye on the matter.

John Solly, secretary of the Lotteries Council, a trade association, said: "In this country we are going backwards. Even if our legislation holds tight, the question might be raised that this is a denial of opportunity, not so much for promoters but for an individual."

"You may feel you are being denied your European rights by not being able to participate in your own state lottery or in European ones."

No one is absolutely sure how the legality of state lotteries will be affected by the single market in 1992. The Home Office understanding is that the current legislation in Britain will not be affected and will still prevent outside lotteries being promoted inside this country.

A few foreign lotteries are very active in selling tickets abroad, even into Britain. And Customs and Excise have successfully impounded millions of letters in the past 18 months.

A spokesman said: "We first realised tickets were being imported in February last year. Between then and this summer we seized 20 million envelopes, mainly from Canada, Germany and Austria. It's easy to pick them

out because the importers tend to send mailshots, which are readily identifiable with promotional material advertised on the envelope. They have changed tack a bit and disguised them to make them look more individual. But we still seize them." It does not, however, prosecute.

Even so, many are still finding their way through, although recipients have nothing to worry about. And if someone takes up the invitation to gamble in the lottery the law is positively quirky.

A Customs spokesman said: "It's an offence to participate in a lottery, although it is not an actual offence to buy a ticket." Neither is it illegal to send off the money, but it is to act as an agent and collect stakes from others.

If someone in Britain wins and Customs intercepts the money being sent to the winner, they will confiscate it because it is an offence to receive such prizes. If anyone has already received the money by the time they find out, they can still seize it. But again it will not prosecute the individual.

Customs has been quite successful in intercepting winnings, which does at least prove that the lotteries are above board and winning is possible.

But as well as the risk of being caught, there are other drawbacks to entering a foreign lottery. Entrants cannot be certain that any particular game is genuine and if they have any problems there is no chance of redress.

Ernie generates number of doubts

DESPITE the government's refusal to allow a state lottery, premium bonds, which are certainly not an investment, have been sold by National Savings since June 1987.

Some 24 million Britons hold premium bonds, and many of them complain that Ernie is unfair. The official line is that Ernie, short for electronic random number indicator equipment, permanently holds every bond number ever bought, apart from those which have been cashed in, and each one has an equal chance of winning every week. But bond holders refuse to believe it.

One, John Duncan, explained why he has lost faith in Ernie. "I bought £2,835 of premium bonds which first went into the February 1988 selection. In that year I had three prizes totalling £450, equivalent to a 15.8 per cent return. In 1989 I had three wins altogether for £150, a 5.29 per cent return. This year I have won nothing so I sold them last month."

"I am not a statistician but I cannot see how that is random. Surely that is a long enough history for it to indicate that something is amiss."

A reader in Lichfield complained that his meagre holding, purchased on day one, attracted one £25 prize in the late Fifties and he has heard nothing since.



Lottery funded: Julie Mills and son Nicholas, aged 14 months, with Cashline co-ordinator Trevor Ray and speech therapist Cath Caple at Macclesfield's child development centre

He asks if any readers have won anything with early issue bonds in recent years.

I have to tell him that on Monday this week my father won his first ever £50 from £100 worth of bonds he bought when they were first issued.

Every bond has an 11,000-1 chance of winning something and these odds have stayed the same since the scheme was restructured in the early Eighties. The odds used to vary according to the size of the fund each week. Now the odds are the same but the number of £50 and £100 prizes changes.

One is far less likely to win the big monthly prize of £250,000 where the odds are 2.33 billion-1 for each bond. Buying £10,000 worth reduces the odds to 233,000-1.

The amount of prizes over the year is 6.5 per cent of the £2.33 billion fund. The figure has nothing to do with market forces and is unlikely to fall just because interest rates are coming down. The last time it changed was in July 1988 when it fell from 7 per cent. The chances of someone with the maximum holding of £10,000 winning absolutely nothing in any year are 55,000-1 against.

A National Savings spokesman explained why each bond, however old, has exactly the same chance of winning. "We are not putting numbers into a tombola. The numbers are held by Ernie and stay there in perpetuity unless they are cancelled by the owner."

"The point we try to get across is that premium bonds are not a draw as such. Ernie just generates a list of numbers."

The results are audited each month by the government actuary who sees a list of winning numbers and checks to make sure Ernie is not issuing recurring numbers.

Piggott's return to saddle puts punters in race for bookies

LESTER Piggott's return to racing this week pleased both the punters and bookies, even though it looks likely to cost the latter money if he stays in form.

Someone who bet the jockey would win his first three races last Monday would have picked up £250,000 if he had succeeded. But the best he managed was a second place, although he did win two races the following day.

Graham Stewart Reed, PR controller for Ladbrokes, said: "We are absolutely delighted he is back because he adds a lot of spice to racing. There is no question that he pulls in the punters and that is good news for the sport. The excitement of his return has generated more betting."

But while the colourful jockey attracted an extra £5 million in wagers, other more esoteric bets were still coming in. The odds on snow falling on the Weather Centre roof at noon on Christmas Day are currently 12-1, and the Booker prize prompted some activity this week. Meanwhile, anyone convinced that aliens will land on earth can still obtain odds of 150-1 from Ladbrokes.

Mr Stewart Reed said: "That particular bet has been going for about eight years. We have taken



Firm favourite: Lester Piggott still draws in the bets

over £250,000 but we have not paid out a penny." But some subjects are taboo. Ladbrokes will not take bets on anything criminal or anything that involves life or death such as the Gulf situation. "Some things we just don't bet on because they are silly or there's no way we can make a sound judgment on them," said Mr Stewart Reed.

Special combination bets push up the potential winnings, like if someone can correctly forecast six winning horses in as many races. Allan Wilson of New Brighton,

Merseyside, almost hit the jackpot on one of these special bets two weeks ago. He was 4.5 lengths away from winning nearly £330,000. He had correctly predicted the first five winners at Ascot but the sixth race was won by a 20-1 outsider. His consolation prize was £4,500.

Mr Wilson was unperturbed by his near miss. "It was the most exciting day of my life and well worth £1," he said.

Over 95 per cent of Ladbrokes' bets go on sport, and of this racing accounts for 70 per cent.

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